Monday, May 9, 2011 | 16 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 150 | P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert: Txt REGISTER to 2467

They'd rather see fight than evacuate

By the Inquirer Staff and Bureaus

MOST EVERY the threat of a storm packing 85-kilometer-per-hour winds would persuade them to flee to evacuation centers. They'd rather stay put and watch Manny Pacquiao fight.

Albay provincial officials yesterday said efforts to evacuate areas

PHOTO /A3

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

6 killed as 'Bebeng' slams Catanduanes

TROPICAL Storm "Bebeng" made landfall in Catanduanes before noon yesterday, bringing heavy rains and landslides that left at least six people, including three children, dead in the Bicol region and the Visayas.

The worst stirring and thousands of residents were evacuated from their homes.

A BIG BLOW /A3

Lopsided Pacquiao win

'RICHMAN' POWER Shane Mosley of the United States takes a punch from Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao of the Philippines during their World Boxing Organization welterweight title fight at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Filipino champion kept his title with a unanimous verdict from three judges. More photos in Sports, Pages A29 &A30

Mosley fights scared, escapes KO loss

By Ray Luarca

LAS VEGAS—Manny Pacquiao forced Shane Mosley into a defensive mode with an early knockdown and settled for a unanimous decision to retain his World Boxing Organization (WBO) welterweight crown at the sold-out MGM Grand Garden Arena here on Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila).

The Fighting Congressman from Sarangani rugged Mosley until a right jab-then unleashed a left hook that floored the American in the third round.

Mosley beat the count, but was never the same after that.

Saddled by cramps in the left leg, Pacquiao was unable to finish off Mosley, disappointing many of the 16,912 fans who were expecting the right-directed knockout that would herald the 32-year-old American his first knockout loss.

To his supporters back home, however, victory by any manner was enough cause for jubilation. (The story on Page A1.)

Pacquiao later said he was really unsure on stopping Mosley but that the Italian Hall of Famer refused to exchange punches as he (normally) does against other foes.

As Mosley found out, Pac-

LEONARD /A27

Money is king, American foe concedes /A26

Survey message: Decline of single-issue presidency

By Amando Doronila

THE WRITING on the wall appeared to the Aquino administration entrenched its success in driving Mercedes Guinness to resign as Commissioner on April 29.

ANALYSIS

The euphoria over the triumph of presidential pressure to get rid of unwanted government officials seen as standing in the way of President Aquino's campaign to purge corruption in public office did not last long.

On May 3, the government got a rude shock: the 2011 first quarter survey of Social Weath-

er Stations was published by the Business Inquirer, which newspaper, showing that public satisfaction with the administration has plunged sharply nationwide, except in Metro Manila. Nationwide, net public satisfaction with the adminis-

SURVEY /A14

Gardener-mother, 64, reaches dream to complete high school

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Nutritionist Andrawey delivered a valedictory address on behalf of her 208 classmates here on Friday.

It was a moment she was waiting for 50 years. "I am 64 years old. This is a dream come true," she said, holding back tears. "This is your invitation that cannot be stolen."

Andrawey, a mother of six, is one of six graduates of Benguet Pack and Sanitation Path who passed the government's high school equivalency test. The rest are in their 40s and 50s.

Andrawey, who was born in Sabangan, Mt. Province, reached third year at St. Vincent High School in the Mt. Province capital of Bontoc and never had the chance to finish school.

"Then I got married and had to stay in Baguio," she said.

Andrawey, who became a gardener in 1987, works at Benguet Pack's nursery.

GARDENER /A10

Woman remembers son who battled with cancer /A28

Manu Caring: Tender, wife, mother, environmentalist /A22

Noy offers venue, brew to ease rift

By Norman Bordadora

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Coffee on a white sand beach could just work diplomatic wonders in easing regional tensions.

President Aquino has offered

NOY OFFERS /A10

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WHAT'S INSIDE

World Videos reveal Bin Laden's shrunken world /A28

Metro Lightning hits plane; 9 Naia workers hurt /A25

News 'Interesting times' with Mar in Palace / A2

Sports Talk 'N Text wraps up 2nd PBA title in Game 6 /A30

Learning 'My father never bragged about his perfect grade' /G1

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'Interesting times' seen with Mar app't

By Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG is in for "interesting times" with the entry of former Sen. Mar Roxas in the Cabinet, a Palace source said yesterday.

The source, who sought anonymity for lack of authority to speak to media, was reacting to President Aquino's announcement that Roxas would likely serve as his chief of staff when the ban on the appointment of kin to the May 2010 elections is lifted next month.

"It will be interesting to find out how he and Executive Secretary Leonardo-De Castro will be able to work together," said the Palace source, referring to the fact that Roxas and Celiaso belong to rival factions surrounding the President.

Belen is the kind of the so-called Kalayaan Group while Roxas is linked to the Senate group—two factions in the Palace which have remained at odds since the presidential campaign of Mr. Aquino.

The source said it would be interesting to learn the decision of the two people on their both roles—chief of staff and chief of the President.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III, meanwhile, said that to be appointed presidential chief of staff meant that the appointee, as the new Roxas, had the "complete trust and confidence" of the President.

But Sotto said he did not think Roxas' entry into the Palace would lead to a clash between the two factions.

"This is a politician. He would know how to temper the different roles," the senator said in a phone interview. "He will not look to enemies. He will look for allies."

In Jakarta, President Aquino briefly said Chief Roxas was set to take on a Cabinet post that would have him function as a presidential chief of staff although he did not specifically say when the post would be.

At an informal talk on Saturday night with reporters covering his working visit to Indonesia, where he is attending the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), the President said Roxas would coordinate efforts of government officials in public dealing with the [illegible] so that when it resolves are, it would only be decided on. There'll be no more need for multiple briefings."

The former senator and Interior secretary-turned presidential candidate would also have in-depth discussions with various groups that need to meet with the President.

ROXAS

DE CASTRO

Sotto said Roxas could not be unnecessarily accommodated into the Aquino's busy schedule.

He would Roxas be his presidential chief of staff?

"You are just one of the reasons. But it's something to that effect," President Aquino said of Roxas' role in his administration when the campaign trail from an official candidate getting appointed post expires on June 30.

The President said it was unpressed for Cabinet secretaries working on assignments to do. Most on time or ahead of time.

He reiterated that he was satisfied with his Cabinet and "completed" any rumors of a coming revamp.

"Why should there be a revamp? Who will I replace? I am happy with the Cabinet," the President said.

Mr. Aquino said he would have to talk to the "others who were expecting to get one of these two portfolios" that were still held by acting secretaries.

The two acting secretaries are Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and Environment Secretary Ramon Paje.

"There are two who are still in acting capacity. So I have to talk to the others, who were expecting to get one of these two portfolios," Mr. Aquino said.

It was earlier reported that former House committee on environment chair and 1st. Aquino's participant in the Liberal Party, Former Bukidnon Representative Roxas, was expected to be named to the DENR post after the one-year appointment ban on deferred candidates.

Roxas lost in the senatorial election last year.

President Aquino indicated to the reporters the kind work, assembly and commitment required of Cabinet members in pursuing the goals of the Aquino administration based on Executive Secretary and accountability to public service.

Roxas, he said, would get a post that would be "even more demanding."

Palace presses ARMM polls postponement

WITH CONGRESS resuming sessions today, Malacañang made it clear yesterday that it wanted the immediate passage of a bill seeking the postponement of elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) set for August.

But this early, Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said the passage of the bill would have "tough" sailing in the Senate.

Interviewed over government radio (DZRB, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said the ARMM polls postponement bill was "first on the list" submitted by the Palace to Congress during the last Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) meeting.

The Supreme Court, which also ruled on issues today, is expected to include two petitions opposing the postponement.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) and the Supreme Court to decide soon whether or not to approve the postponement.

The ARMM is scheduled to hold elections on Aug. 8, or three months from now.

"We hope the senators will listen to the wisdom and the core behind the postponement of the ARMM polls," Valte said.

The House has passed a bill proposing the postponement of the ARMM polls, but the Senate has yet to come up with a counterpart measure.

The measure is pending in the Senate committee chaired by Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., who has yet to conduct any hearing on the bill.

But Sotto said this week was "unreal" as they would have the says whether the measure had a chance of being passed in current time or before the election ends. Christine O. Avendaño and Jerome Aning

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According to Prof Feng Xiaozhi, the chief specialist with Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital said, "the recurrences and metastases are the root problems for the malignant cancers. Therefore, the success of the treatment of a tumor is determined by controlling of the recurrences and metastases." The famous Chinese oncologist Dr. Tang Chaoyin said that the metastasis of tumor is a crucial fight in the treatment of the cancer.

Scientific research found that when the size of the tumor tissue is more than 1cm, it needs a new blood vessel to supply enough nutrients to it, in order to ensure the continuous growth of the tumor, the blood vessel supplies the nutrients to the tumor tissue and at the same time provides the way for the metastases of the tumor. To control the growth of the blood vessels in tumor, you need to cut the supply of the nutrients. After a certain period, the tumor will stay in the dormant stage. In the end, it will lead to the death of the tumor.

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Mr. Lee, a 50 years old Chinese from Switzerland, had coughing with linear blood in his phlegm one year ago. He was then introduced to Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital. After he had taken the examinations of CT scan and bronchoscopy, the doctor confirmed that he had lung cancer. Three months after the treatment, he went back for check up. His lung tumor had disappeared. He felt good and looked well. He was relieved and asked the doctor how he was cured. The doctor told him that aside from the traditional chemotherapy and radiotherapy, he used a new method in his treatment and it was the starving treatment method.

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Cambodia, Laos seek PH investments

By Norman Bordadora

JAKARTA, Indonesia—The Philippines has agreed to invest in agriculture and tourism ventures in Cambodia and Laos.

The investments to boost ties were agreed during bilateral talks between the Philippines and each of the two neighboring countries, according to Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen also offered to supply the Philippines with unmilled rice, Carandang said.

The Cambodian leader had specifically asked President Aquino for investments in the field of rice improvement and for the opening of direct flights between Manila and Cambodia, he said.

"It turns out that Cambodia is selling rice to Thailand and Vietnam because their rice is unmilled. They lack the capacity to mill so they sell unmilled rice," Carandang said.

"Then Sen said the rice that (the Philippines) buys from Vietnam comes from them. He said it might be better if we were straight to them," he said.

Carandang said the offer was now being studied.

Carandang said Laos also invited the Philippines to invest in that country.

Lacson to head 2 panels

MORE the Senate tourneys to resolve today but, Sheffie Lacson, reserves the right to limit the hunt for more than a year, is expected to be given two committee chairmanships.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said yesterday the returning Lacson would head the accounts committee and the national defense panel.

In accommodates Lacson, Sotto said he would give up the accounts committee while Sen. Francis Escudero would give up national defense panel.

He said Lacson's membership to only 11 committees would also be among the items to be discussed by the senators in caucus today.

"We will also discuss what we can finish in four weeks," Sotto said referring to the end of Senate sessions in the first week of June.

Lacson outfoxed in March after the court of Appeals ruled there was no basis to issue an arrest warrant for him for the Ilocos-Cordillo murders in 2006. Chevarley O. Arevalo

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Miriam bill hikes retirement age

By Christian V. Esguerra

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor Santiago has filed a bill that would extend to 75 the compulsory retirement age for government workers, saying that the current age of 65 was discriminatory to "seasoned" public servants who are still capable of doing their jobs.

Santiago said the age limit of 65 was set more than 112 years ago when the life expectancy was 37 years.

"The age for compulsory retirement as provided by law was initially thought to be the age when an employee is deemed already unfit to keep his or her employment," she said.

"But we were later to consider recent advances in medicine and health care, which ushered the productive age of employees to even beyond 70 years old, especially in fields that are not physically demanding."

Santiago, 66, said extending the age limit by five years would benefit the workers.

"Many people want to keep working for a variety of reasons other than economic survival, including enjoyment of the office or workplace or the sense of purpose that work brings," she added.

In turn, the government and the public would "benefit from the expertise of our public servants for a bit longer and allow them more time for our insurance system to prepare for their retirement."

"Our loyal and hardworking public servants will be able to benefit from continued employment and retire at an age when they are more ready to move on," Santiago said.

Senate Bill No. 2797 seeks to amend the Government Service Insurance System Act, which prescribes the mandatory retirement age.

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AFP always alert for terror–Oban

By Donz Z. Pasdingan

DESPITE the death of terrorist regional terrorist leader Osama bin Laden, the Philippine military is not taking any chances.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Oban Jr. said they were assuming that there would be retaliatory attacks by local Islamic extremists like the Abu Sayyaf in retaliation for the killing of their former benefactor.

But Oban said they had no information about any specific threat based on the latest intelligence.

"We have to consider that. It's prudent to consider all possibilities. That's why we are always prepared for that. That's why we're hitting right at the heart of the (Abu Sayyaf) organization in Jolo and Basilan," Oban said.

Oban said the AFP did not need to go on a nationwide red alert after 15 troops killed in Pakistan the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks because the troops had not slackened in their operations against any terrorist which responsible for kidnapping for ransom, bombings and extortion incidents.

"It has to be a continuous effort until we have reached the objectives of basically it's neutralizing the Abu Sayyaf, the Jemaah Islamiyah and other (extremist) groups," Oban said.

The new internal peace and security plan "Bayanihan" under the aquino administration has laid down some basic strategies for every security threat group.

No-negotiation policy

For the Abu Sayyaf and other extremist groups, the military backs the government's no-negotiation policy.

Under the Bayanihan, "declaring the terrorist groups shall be done by initially isolating them... from their foreign support and influences, unless (these groups and must lose support... so that military force could be applied on them with precision and reduced collateral damage."

"When Bin Laden was killed, there was no need for a heightened alert because we were on heightened alert from the first day (of Bayanihan). The latest operational posture we had is basically and Basilan would adjust to that," Oban said.

The Eastern Mindanao Command went on red alert on Tuesday a day after the US announced Bin Laden's death, to anticipation of possible attacks from "fanatics" of Bin Laden.

Easternmost covers Region X (northern Mindanao), Region XI (Davao region), Region XII (Soccsksargen) and the Caraga region) and the provinces of Maguindanao and Lanao Del Sur.

Step up operations

The Western Mindanao Command which covers the Zamboanga peninsula and the Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi provinces also stepped up its operations and intelligence of late but played down the possibility of sympathy attacks.

The provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi in the southernmost islets of the Abu Sayyaf are under the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

National Security Adviser Cesar Garcia said Wednesday the threat level was high in Regions II, XI and XII and the ARMM in the wake of Bin Laden's death.

Oban said the arrest of 38-year-old Abu Sayyaf member Imam Arabani Jakiran who was working as a security guard at a high-rise condominium in Makati City, Baguio, showed that the security forces were continuously tracking down Abu Sayyaf members wanted for criminal activities.

"They normally come to the urban areas to elude arrest," he said.

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Psalter: Week 3
3rd Week of Easter
Jn 1:19-23-24, 26-27, 29-28
Blessed are they who believe in the Christ of the Gospel

1st Reading: Acts 6:8-15

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. Some persons from the synagogue, who belonged to the so-called Synagogue of Freedmen from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia and Asia, They argued with Stephen but they could not match the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke. So they were unable to hurt the truth, they bribed some men to say, "We heard him speak against Moses and against God."

So they stirred up the people, the elders and the teachers of the law; they took him by surprise, seized him and brought him before the Council. Then they produced false witnesses who said, "This man never stops speaking against our Holy Place and the Law. We even heard him say that Jesus the Nazarene will destroy our Holy Place and change the customs which Moses handed down to us." And all who were in the Council with their eyes on him, and his face appeared as those like the face of an angel.

Gospel: Jn 6:16-20

After Jesus has fed the five thousand, His disciples saw Him walking on the water. Next day the people who had stayed on the other side realized that only one boat had been there and that Jesus had not entered it with His disciples, rather, the disciples had gone away alone. Happy boats from Tiberias came near the place where all these people had eaten the bread. When they saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Master, when did you come here?"

Jesus answered, "Truly, I say to you, you look for me, not because you have seen through the signs, but because you are bread and were satisfied. Work then not for perishable food, but for the lasting food which gives eternal life. The Son of Man will give it to you, for he is the one the Father has anointed."

Then the Jews asked him, "What shall we do? What are the works that God wants us to do?" And Jesus answered them, "The work God wants is this: that you believe in the One whom God has sent."

Reflection:

We sometimes desire a precise sign of love's fruits and demonstration of extraordinary valor for the greater glory of God. But here we were cautioned against this and what Jesus really wanted from us? The Jews of the Gospel today asked a relevant question, "what does God want us to do?" Jesus' answer was brief yet right and clear: believe! Believe in Him, the One sent by God for our salvation. Begin with faith in Him. All the other things will follow afterwards.

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Huge disparity in oil prices hit

ILOILO CITY—Party-list groups will push for an investigation of the significant disparity between oil prices in the provinces and Metro Manila, Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said yesterday.

"We will not only address the complaints of transport groups in Visayas [and] with regard to the disparities in pump prices that are much higher than in Metro Manila, we will work with PiliCo (Pinag-isang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Kooperatiba) and all transport groups...to look into this and find policy solutions," Casiño said.

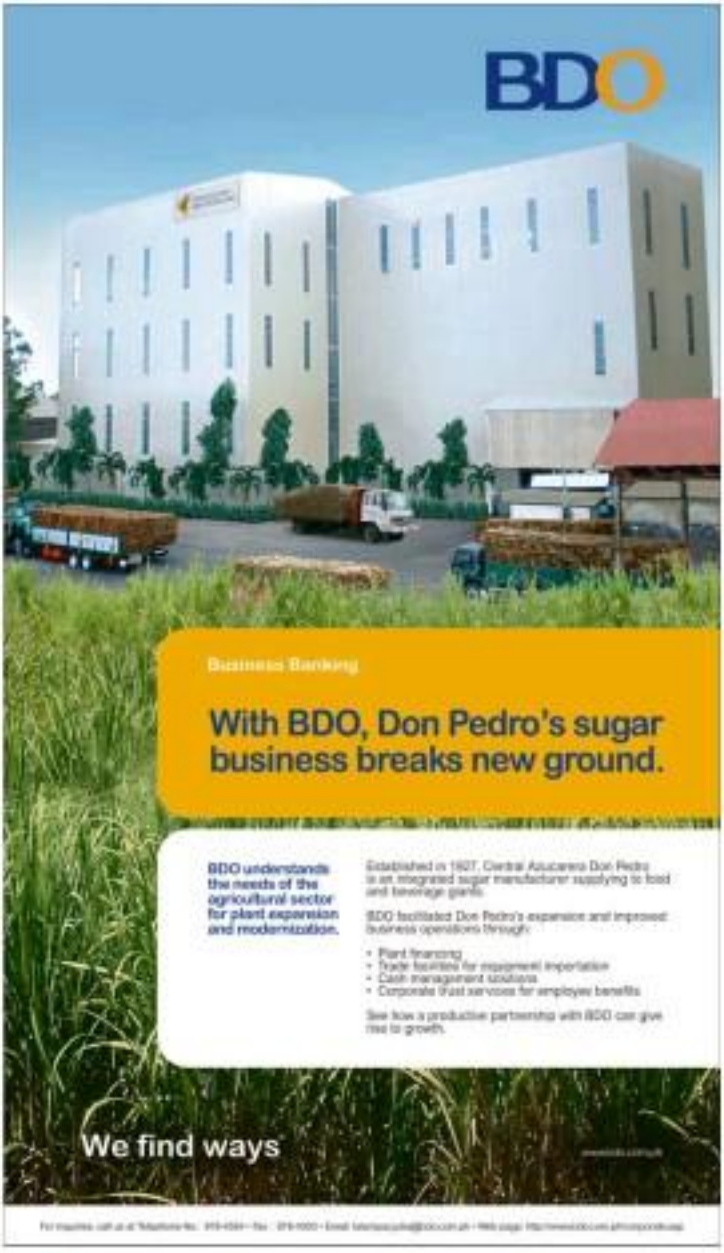
He said the government should address the complaints of transport groups that oil prices, especially in the provinces, were too high.

"The Makabayan coalition of progressive party-list groups in Congress filed measures to help our nation's transport groups address the problematic state policies that permit oil price hikes and protect the oil companies instead of the public," Casiño said.

The coalition includes party-list groups Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, Gabriela Women's Party, Kabataan and ACT Teachers.

Casiño earlier co-sponsored House Resolution 1170 asking the House committee on energy to conduct an urgent inquiry into the unusually high prices of fuel products in Region 6(Iloilo)as well as other cities and provinces outside Metro Manila.

Bunye, P. Burgos Jr. and Gavin P. Honan, Inquirer Visayas



2 Customs execs charged with graft

By Ramon W. Dacuycuy

TWO OFFICIALS of the Bureau of Customs have been charged with graft before the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly amassing wealth and resources beyond their means.

Charged by the Department of Finance's Revenue Integrity Protection Service (DOF-RIPS) were customs intelligence officer Marissa Mae R. Galang and chief operations officer Rafael M. Mercadilla.

On Thursday, the DOF-RIPS filed criminal and administrative charges against Galang, who talks to acting chief of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service based in Manila.

In a statement, DOF-RIPS said Galang started out as a budget officer in 2001 with a salary of P195,000 yearly and now earns P588,052 or a gross monthly income of P49,671.

It said Galang "acquired wealth that is disproportionate to her salary and legitimate means," as indicated by her "questionable expenses and huge loan payments, frequent travels abroad and inconsistent declarations with regard to the real worth of her properties."

Mercadilla, on the other hand, DOF-RIPS accused Mercadilla of "concealing the true nature and extent of his assets" by failing to declare ownership of certain vehicles registered in his name and that of members of his family.

"It was also discovered that in order to cover up their accumulation of assets, Mercadilla and his wife found fictitious loans from the Government Service Insurance System in the 1990s to 2000s (sic) to construct of assets, liabilities and net worth," DOF-RIPS said.

It said Mercadilla in 1980 inherited a real property in Sampaloc, Manila, but declared it only 10 years later.

He also acquired two real properties in Pandacan City and Batangas City in 1992, but "he declared his unit in apartment in Malabon in 1996 and a farm in Lipa City, while from two more lots in Pateros and Batangas City in 2002.

"Mercadilla's other properties appeared to have been inconsistently declared, while some were undeclared," DOF-RIPS said, referring to two residential buildings in Lipa City and a residential lot with a building in Dau, Lee Pilton.

DOF-RIPS and Galang failed to declare in her SALN for eight years a townhouse in Quezon City that she acquired through marriage in 1995.

Mar, Galang allegedly falsified their three records for May 2007 to make it appear that she was at work, when she was actually abroad in Hong Kong on a passenger manifest of Asian Spirit airline.

Ramon L. Dacuycuy; 74

RAMON "Monching" Lachlalad Dacuycuy of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, died on May 7. He was 74.

He is survived by his brothers and sisters in law Jose and Nenette Leyag, Efren and Noemi Hernando, and Pete and Ching Evagel, nephews, nieces and other relatives. He was one to the last Francisco Dacuycuy and Mercedes Lachlalad.

His body lies at Villa Lambina hall in San Nicolas. Interment plans will be announced later.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

It has come to our knowledge that fake/spurious sugar warehouse receipts (quedans) purportedly issued by Central Azucarera de la Carlota, Inc. (CAC) and Hawaiian-Philippine Company, Inc. (HPCo) have been used by unscrupulous persons as collaterals for bank loans. CAC and HPCo did not issue those fake quedans nor are they parties to the issuance of the subject quedans.

We strongly condemn these acts of deception and we intend to pursue appropriate criminal and civil actions against the perpetrators of these unlawful and fraudulent acts to preserve the sanctity of our quedans.

We believe that this is an isolated incident nonetheless, we advise quedan holders to exercise caution. We are coordinating with the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) regarding this matter for appropriate action. For any concerns regarding this matter, please contact the issuing offices at their respective mills, Ms. Celeste Severo for CAC at (02) 810-8001 to 06 and Mr. Ernie Toledo for HPCo at (034) 465-3671.

The Management of
Central Azucarera de la Carlota, Inc. and
Hawaiian-Philippine Company, Inc.

Recto raps rail lines deal

THE PRIVATE group that will take over the Metro Rail Transit Light Rail Transit (MRT/LRT) rainwise is going to get a P321-billion bonanza aside from tax perks, access to cheap loans, and higher margins from higher fares.

Sen. Ralph G. Recto said the government should be more "feel-helpful" in telling the public than it will ever be getting anything in return for giving up control of the MRT/LRT to a private group.

"The people, before any transition is lost, should be informed: the P13-billion price tag for the bundled MRT-LRT privatization is the amount the government will pay the winning bidder and it is not the amount it would earn from the transaction," Recto said in a statement.

"We will pay them P13 billion to operate the rail lines plus perhaps they would avail themselves of tax holidays, cheap loans from state banks, and an almost sure option to jack up fares," he said.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) will bid out on July 11 a four-year operation and maintenance (O&M) contract for the MRT line (Taft Avenue in Pasay City to North Avenue in Quezon City) and the LRT (from Taft Avenue in Harrison to Roosevelt Avenue in Quezon City).

The government currently lends over P7 billion to P8 billion in subsidies to the MRT/LRT to keep fares within reach of more riders.

"The project in the first to be bid out under the government's Public-Private Partnership Program which hopes to attract billions of pesos in investments from the private sector.

Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) spokesperson Hernando Cabrera, however, said the winning bidder would have to cap on the fare rates for the LRT and MRT lines. All the private company will earn is the P13 billion cost of the contract, to be paid by the government over five years.

"The company will not make any money even if the rates go up," he told the business yesterday.

Cabrera, who is also LRTA corporate secretary and the government would continue to set the fares for the train lines. The revenues would also be remitted to the government, which means the private company would have no interest in the commercial performance of the train lines, he said.

A separate contract for the LRT and MRT's capacity expansion, meanwhile, will be bid out separately he said. (*With reports from* Cid Cabuenas and Ayala Manuel)

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Church calls for prayers today against RH bill

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE CATHOLIC Church is asking the faithful to allot a special time for prayer today that members of Congress would finally reject the family planning measure gaining its both shoulders and which have caused much divisiveness among the people.

The Church declared today a National Day of Prayer to invoke divine intervention in the continuing conflict surrounding the legislative measures that would separate birth control in the country.

Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles, encouraged the faithful to pray, including saying the rosary, with a special intention for **representatives, senators and Pres**idents who have openly supported the **reproductive health (RH) bill, that they** would change their minds.

"Let us offer our prayers for them so that their minds will be enlightened and they **will see the value of life,"** said Arguelles over the Church's Radio Veritas.

He also urged the faithful to regularly pray the rosary beginning today until the **family planning measures shall have** been junked by Congress. The National Day of Prayer coincides with the day the legislators is scheduled to take up the RH bill.

Wear blue or white

But **San Bishop Jose de Sta Position** said he had directed the priests in his diocese to encourage the faithful to mark the day by wearing blue or white shirts or ribbons. The **discover will also lead a prayers activity and** prayer vigil today against the passage of the **RH bill**, he added.

"I will call on my people to do this, let's **storm heaven with prayers,"** said Pavitlan.

Cotabato Auxiliary Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo said a "**iron brigade**" had been hatched in his diocese to promote the **National Day of Prayer** and to ensure its success.

"This will manifest our unity... to show to everybody that all sectors of society are against the proposed bill," said Bagaforo, who noted that now was the time for all pro-life supporters to publicly show their opposition to the bill that would promote the use of contraceptives.

Bagaforo said the National Day of Prayer was an opportunity for Filipinos to fight against the legislative measures "as one voice" and as "one voice in prayer."

The Catholic Church has resolutely opposed the RH bill, considering many of its **major provisions anti-life.** The Church is particularly against the free distribution of birth control pills and condoms that prevent conception.

Type of abortion

It maintains that human life begins at conception and that contraception is a type of abortion, which is banned by the Constitution.

The National Day of Prayer also coincides with the last day of the nine-day novena for life being conducted in Mater Mariis by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and various lay and youth groups.

The novena was also part of the Church's campaign to convince the RH bill.

PHOENIX

May 9, 2011

A Message to Stakeholders

As you may have heard by now, the Bureau of Customs has released to the press, the filing of an alleged smuggling case against Phoenix Petroleum. While we have yet to receive the formal notice, we feel it is our duty to our bankers, investors and shareholders to defend this affront on our integrity. We categorically deny any wrongdoing and have issued a public statement to that effect.

We pride ourselves as a listed company and the integrity and transparency that come with it. We have worked hard for many years to build the reputation of this company from scratch that it would be incensed even that we would ever attempt to get involved in any illicit activities. Proof of our trustworthiness is the investment of the Social Security System (SSS) equivalent to 9.6% share in the Company and where one of the SSS Commissioners is a member of the Board of Directors of the Company.

As a listed company, our books are always open for inspection. The company is audited by Punongbayan & Araullo. We were one of the first listed companies to release its financial results for 2010. Just recently, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) concluded their due diligence for a convertible debt issue, which was posted on its website and filed with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Earlier this year another due diligence was completed by a local investment bank for a possible follow on later this year. In all three cases, all our transactions were shortlisted.

More importantly, it has been the company's intention to raise significant amounts of long-term capital to support its aggressive expansion. It would be illogical for the company to even consider illegal transactions.

We have complete documents to support our importations and to extensively prove the payment of the corresponding taxes and duties.

We also have in possession a Post Entry Audit Group (PEAG) certification dated June 21, 2010 covering the periods of June 2007 to June 2010 signed by Commissioner Angelito Alvarez himself, which serves to contradict his intent to order the PEAG to audit all previous importations prior to June 2010. We hope this is not a case of an overnight on the part of the BOC because it will be a big blow to the policy of this administration to provide a level playing field for all businessmen, whether big or small, and a conducive environment for investment.

Rest assured that we intend to contest this outrageous case and exhaust all possible legal means to clear the name of the company and justify the trust and your support for Phoenix Petroleum through the years.

www.phoenixphilippines.com

DOJ chief opposes peso-only int'l loans

By Jovaria Aviog

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice (DOJ) has expressed its opposition to a pending bill in the House of Representatives that would require that all government contracts with foreigners must be denominated in Philippine pesos.

In a letter to Zamboanga City Rep. Isidro Ululio Rico, chair of the House committee on government enterprises and privatization, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said House Bill No. 4226, if passed into law, "would not only be impractical but very difficult to implement."

The bill's author, Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez, had said there was a need to prevent unwanted financial losses for government agencies with respect to foreign loans that they enter into.

When foreign loans are denominated in Philippine pesos, future payments will not be subjected to market swings and government funds will not be prejudiced, Suarez said.

Suarez also cited as a basis for his bill Section 19, Article II, of the Constitution which says, "The State shall develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos."

He also pointed out that Section 14, Article XII, of the Constitution mandates the State to "regulate and exercise authority over foreign investments within its national jurisdiction and in accordance with its national goals and priorities."

No connection

De Lima, however, countered that the one-to-one connection between preserving market stability and a government contract's currency the said that as a borrower the Philippine government would not dictate the denomination of a private credit lender.

The DOJ chief said officials from the Department of Finance, government financial institutions and government-owned and-controlled corporations (GOCCs) would lose their flexibility when negotiating for better terms and conditions with multinational lending institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and other international commercial banks, if the government were to borrow funds and obtain foreign investments only in Philippine currency.

Regarding the constitutional rationale for the bill, De Lima said it has "while the Constitution, in promoting a self-reliant and independent national economy, mandates a bias in favor of Filipino goods, services, labor and enterprises, it does not contemplate a bias in favor of the Philippine currency."

She cited the case of Philippine et al. v Zamora, where the Supreme Court ruled that while Section 19, Article II, requires the development of an independent national economy controlled by Filipino entrepreneurs, it does not impose a policy of Filipino monopoly on the economic environment.

In the same ruling, the Court said that the objective of that constitutional provision is to "prohibit foreign powers or interests from intervening on economic policies and matters that Filipinos are given preference in all areas of development," De Lima said.

Stabilize the currency

She argued that to prevent foreign exchange losses, the government must instead work to stabilize the country's currency when foreign-denominated loans, including foreign currency-denominated bond issuances, mature.

Suarez had cited a study by the Senate Economic Planning Office which showed that the 1997 Asian financial crisis exacted a heavy toll on many GOCCs that had substantial foreign-denominated liabilities.

"A large part of the GOCCs' difficulties were foreign loans and this has been the reason for the huge foreign exchange (forex) losses for many of them. The study also found out that four of the GOCCs with the highest forex losses also had the highest interest payments," said Suarez, a senior deputy minority leader.

"High foreign-currency denominated debt exposures in a two-edged sword. Government agencies with huge exposure to foreign-currency denominated loans suffer losses when the peso depreciates. Conversely, they may also experience net foreign gains when the peso appreciates. While foreign funding is needed for many government programs, it is essential that the provisions of the loan contracts are favorable to the country's interests," Suarez had said in an earlier statement.

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6 killed as 'Bebeng' slams Catanduanes

From page A1

Parking gears of up to 100 kilometers per hour, Bebeng (international name: Aere) cut power and telecommunication service to many parts of Bicol.

Catanduanes was one entire electricity store Saturday and Sunday since 3 a.m. of Saturday. Many parts of Albay, including Legazpi City, were also without power yesterday.

The storm, the second in the year and the first to hit land in the country, was 70 kilometers east of Daet town in Camarines Norte as of 4 p.m. yesterday.

It was barreling northwest at 15 kph and was headed toward the Quezon-Aurora region.

Bebeng was forecast to leave the country's area of responsibility Tuesday morning, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in its 5 p.m. bulletin.

Instructions from Jakarta

Even if he was in Indonesia, President Aquino ordered his officials yesterday to prepare for Bebeng.

From Jakarta where he was attending the summit meeting of Southeast Asian Nations, Mr. Aquino "gave instructions to prepare for evacuation centers, identify them and for the Department of Social Welfare and Development to preposition goods in "vulnerable areas," deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said on government radio dzRB.

While Bebeng's center was making the eastern seaboard and south Luzon, the same it generated had reunited as the archipelago island, prompting Pagasa to expand its storm warning to cover almost the entire Luzon.

"Although the same name not in heavy in the center, it is underpowered. In fact, it is maintaining its whole circular formation. What is because of the monsoon," Ms. Pagasa Administrator Nathaniel Servando said.

The Coast Guard has barred small boats from leaving ports in Bicol and Eastern Visayas, stranding thousands of passengers.

Flights canceled

Six international flights due to land at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) had to be diverted to Clark International Airport because of heavy rains that poured down Metro Manila late afternoon Sunday.

Eight domestic flights also had to be diverted to Clark, and two flights were delayed. As of 6:30 p.m., there were 61 recorded domestic flights to or from at least 30 destinations.

During a heavy downpour on Sunday night, Eglesia ni Cristo's private jet (the Viola version, clipping into ground staff, rocks reports said. (*See story in Metro, Page A19.*)

Signal No. 2

The provinces likely on the path of Bebeng—Isabela, Quirino, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, northern Quezon, Pueblo Island, Marinduque and Catanduanes were placed on public storm signal No. 2.

Public storm signal No. 1 was raised over Metro Manila and a wide swath of Luzon yesterday afternoon.

Also under signal No. 1 were Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya and Camarines Norte—were placed on public storm signal No. 2.

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Public storm signal No. 1 was raised over Metro Manila and a wide swath of Luzon yesterday afternoon.

Also under signal No. 1 were Catanduanes, Albay, Sorsogon Island, Camarines Sur, southern Quezon, Marinduque, Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Rizal, Bulacan, Bataan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Pangasinan, La Union, Benguet, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte and Cagayan.

Landslides

In Bulusan town in Camarines Sur, three of the fatalities were children buried in a landslide in the seaside subvillage of Barangay Sumoroy Labuluan, or 4 a.m. on Sunday.

Ginory Maribel S. Sanchez, 39, and Princess B. Bandiol, 8, and their cousin Shiara Sanchez Sajulada, 7, were already dead when they were pulled from under debris and soil that buried their home, said Senior Insp. Ayn Bacsal, a spokesperson of the Bicol police headquarters.

Heavy rains softened the earth around the house of the victims, according to neighbors.

Labuluan was isolated as the provincial road leading to the village was no longer passable after water in the spillway overflowed and flooded the road, said Bacsal.

Other fatalities were reported in the villages of Tulin-tulin in Libon town and in a village in Malinao.

Electrocuted

A report received by the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said a downed power line electrocuted Imalio Pedrosa in Libon.

In Barangay Mabilang in Daraga, town in Albay, Lucas Lanuevo was reported to have electrocuted, the OCD said.

A missing boy was identified as Adrian Clark Ayuna of Libon, Albay.

At least 10,000 residents of flood and landslide prone areas have been evacuated to safe ground and to evacuation centers across the region, the OCD said.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda has ordered the closure of some roads, amid massive flooding of rivers and landslides to avoid drowning or to prevent vehicles from being swept away.

Roads closed

The roads are in Bulan, Pilibong, Polangui and Pabllo in Libon.

"The provincial road going to the tarmac is not passable due to flooding," Nurse said.

The number of stranded passengers in different Bicol ports climbed to 3,233 yesterday from 1,267 reported on Saturday.

Visitin Gutrina of OCD Bicol said 1,300 passengers were stranded in Matnog, Sorsogon and 1,123 in Tabaco, Albay.

A man drowned while at least 1,750 families were displaced when floods and landslide hit a town and one city in Leyte and two towns in Northern Samar.

Lulu Bongcac-Ong, vice mayor of Hilongos, Leyte in Barangay Capiñahan, Cariguara town when he was swept by strong currents on Saturday morning, according to the OCD in Eastern Visayas.

Cheryl Sycip Gongora of the OCD-8 said the heavy rains on Saturday also triggered floods and landslides that displaced 632 families in 11 barangays in Libon town (*Cfr*).

Six families were brought to the barangay hall of Alta Vista after a landslide hit Purok Bonsai, October 29, at around 8:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Ten barangays in Ormoc were also hit by floods, displacing 3,756 people, according to Lahaug.

Displaced in N. Samar

In Northern Samar, floods displaced 1,300 families in 29 barangays in Lope de Vega town and the capital town of Catarman.

Lahaug said 20 barangays in Lope de Vega were affected by the floods, displacing more than 6,000 people, who took shelter at the municipal hall.

In Catarman, 500 families from four barangays were displaced after their homes were flooded on Saturday.

"Some of these families evacuated to their barangay halls while others were trapped inside their homes," Lahaug said.

In Abra town, 825 passengers were stranded while 18 light vehicles, 23 trucks and 26 buses remained at port after a Ro-Ro vessel was prevented from leaving for Matnog, Sorsogon.

The rough seas also caused the delay of the departure of a Bohol-bound vessel in Masbate City in Southern Leyte, affecting at least 70 passengers.

SW monsoon

Servando said the churning of Bebeng, pulled in the southwest monsoon from the South China Sea. The monsoon, which started early this month, means sudden showers in the afternoons and early evening in the western seaboard, including Metro Manila.

The rains in these areas over the weekend came not from the center of Bebeng, but from the southwestern monsoon that was dragged and attached to the fringes of the storm's rain band, he said. *Reports from Mar Arguelles and Aliston M. Barrameda, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Amy A. Galindez, Ana Armasa and Elvie Rea, Inquirer Visayas; Kristine L. Alave, Christine D. Avendaño and Ed Yap in Manila; and AFP*

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Gardener-mother, 64, reaches dream to complete high school

From page A1

Her colleagues, Aurora Burlig, 53, who works at the valet into gardens of Bacolod, considered their "graduation" one of the happiest days of her life.

"Maybe when a few of my children graduate two years from now from law school, they will be the happiest," Burlig said.

But like Andaweng she is back to taking care of the flowers of Bacolod's streets after changing from their yellow togas. That is after breaking their bid into gardeners to pinkpillars, a Cordillerian chicken stew.

Equivalency exams

Manuel Pagtan, Estanislao Pagtol, Marivic Pumeng-as, Ms. Lotis Dungan, Andaweng and Kinlig passed their high school equivalency examinations in February.

Twelve gardeners took the exams in August last year and at least three were a few points short from making the grade.

Burlig said it was only on her fifth try that she finished it.

Bishop, tutor

Andaweng thanked Bagnio Bishop Carlito Cenzon and Clark "teacher," Nonette Bautista, for their success.

Their scores were coordinated by Cenzon, with Bautista, a counselor and member of Cenzon's staff, acting as their tutor for six months.

They started their review sessions in May last year and took the exams in August. They reviewed for two hours almost every day.

Bautista said the biggest hurdle for some of them was returning to a classroom after years of working the soil and tending flowers.

"They said the words are blurring right in front of them," she said.

Learning Filipino

Pumeng-as, who works around Burnham Lake, said another problem was learning Filipino. Many of the gardeners are from Mt. Province, where it is easier to converse in English.

Bautista said her students also struggled in composing essays.

"Maybe Nonette was very patient with us. God knows how heartbreaked we can be," Andaweng said. "She never receives anything from us. Sometimes we give her P50 each, but she would use that to treat us and buy us food."

Street sweepers

Bautista said that because of the gardeners' success, even the street sweepers wanted to join the review classes starting next week.

Pagtan, 47, a gardener at Bacolod's Park, said his graduation encouraged him to start taking up law.

"Now, I believe I can continue with my dreams," he said.

There are at least 40 gardeners employed by the city government to make the park a bed of roses.

"Being with flowers is relaxing work," Burlig said.

Their most stressful periods are during storms and Panagbenga (Baguio Flower Festival).

Andaweng and the nursery crew keep flowers to replace blooms lost during storms and those trampled on by tourists and residents during the flower festival held every February.

"We are the ones who didn't finish our education, but sometimes it is the tourists who should be educated to take care of the flowers," Andaweng said.

Oldest mom in Rosales

In Pangasinan, a 101 year-old mother of six was honored by a food shopping mall during its Mother's Day program in Rosales as the oldest mother in Rosales town.

Known to her village as Inang Nasing, Leonila Tuazon brought up her children to become good, law-abiding citizens.

"She brought us up ... and she did well. She was strong we were hooked on any vice. We are not drinkards, we don't gamble and we don't take drugs. We were never impressed. She may be uneducated and poor, but she gave us proper moral upbringing," said her eldest child, Arsenia, 64.

Tuazon, who used to sell vegetables around Pangasinan, lives by herself in Barangay Bical and does household chores despite her poor eyesight.

Arsenia, who lives next door, prepares her mother's daily breakfast of tea and bread. Arsenia's wife cooks lunch and dinner for Tuazon.

"She doesn't want to live with any of us, her children, because she doesn't want to interfere in our domestic affairs," Arsenia said.

Tuazon said her children were her source of happiness. *With a report from Aliston Barrameda, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

INQUIRER

OPINION

Slipping ratings

EDITORIAL

THE NET satisfaction rating of the Aquino administration, as measured in the Social Weather Stations survey conducted from March 4 to 7 this year, shows a steep drop, from 64 percent in the last quarter of 2010 to 46 percent in the first quarter of 2011. This is yet another wake-up call for the administration, but before we speak of divisive next steps to be taken, it is our responsibility to identify exactly which alarm bells are ringing.

We can take a closer look at what may be the the real measure of political support, the "gross" satisfaction or dissatisfaction ratings themselves, the survey findings from which the net ratings are computed.

In the Nov. 27-30, 2010 SWS survey, a remarkable 74 percent of respondents, equivalent to almost three-fourths of all voting-age Filipinos, said they were satisfied with the general performance of the Aquino administration. In the March 4-7, 2011 survey, the number fell to 63 percent; that is to say "only" about two-thirds of all Filipino adults said they were satisfied.

The decrease in "gross" satisfaction ratings is roughly mirrored in the increase in "gross" dissatisfaction ratings. In November, only 10 percent of respondents—nine in every 10 Filipino adults—said they were dissatisfied with the general performance of the administration. By March, the number had risen to 18 percent, or almost two in every 10 voting-age Filipinos.

In other words, it is erroneous to use the new net satisfaction rating of plus-46 as though it meant that President Aquino's political support had fallen below 50 percent. In fact, the administration still enjoys majority support, with 63-percent satisfaction. But the administration should be troubled by the near-doubling in the dissatisfaction rating, this is where opposition protests and street demonstrations will source their ranks from.

It is equally erroneous to assert that President Aquino's high visibility campaign to impeach Mercedes Gutierrez failed to prevent the drop in the administration's ratings. In the first place, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly impeached Gutierrez only on March 22, three weeks after the latest SWS survey was conducted. Gutierrez announced her resignation as ombudsman in the last week of April, or eight weeks after the survey. Her resignation took effect on May 6, a full two months after the SWS survey. To find out the impact of President Aquino's pet Merci campaign, we would need to wait for the next poll, not extrapolate from the last one.

In the second place, the SWS survey has a specific question related to graft and corruption, the main issue which fueled the rise of the second Aquino presidency. As far as "Eradicating graft and corruption" is concerned, the Aquino administration reached a record high of plus-22 in the September 2010 survey, the first quarterly poll SWS conducted after President Aquino took office. That same high was reached again in November, before falling down to plus-14 in March. Because the record high of plus-22 was achieved after the Arroyo administration ended its extended term in June 2010 with a negative 27 rating in "Eradicating graft and corruption," we can draw two lessons from this series of numbers: The public is solidly behind the Aquino administration's central campaign promise. But the administration's follow-through on the promise is beginning to prompt some public disappointment.

That sense of disappointment, however, may be partly in the perception, to early March 2011, that Gutierrez would fight tooth and nail to hold on to her position—and thus continue to stymie the campaign against corruption. It remains to be seen whether the presidential pressure that led to her resignation will have an impact on the administration's numbers in "Eradicating graft and corruption."

In other words, it is premature to throw in the towel as far as fighting corruption is concerned. If anything, the Aquino administration must step up the fight, now that Gutierrez is out of the way. But the administration must realize that anti-corruption initiatives alone, or enhanced public relations, won't be enough. It must weed out the incompetents (starting with those responsible for the continuing delay in presidential appointments). It must work harder to stop or mitigate the rise in consumer prices, including getting tough with the oil firms. Not least, it must ensure a separation far distancing the very best, from the people as well as from itself.

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Two unconscionably delayed cases

Neal H. Cruz

AS I SEE IT

THE PHILIPPINES is notorious in the world for having the slowest judicial system. The wheels of justice grind oh so slowly. Reasons can be outrageous, lazy and constantly judges, justices and prosecutors dragging their dockets, and dilatory tactics of the defense.

One new dilatory tactic is to persuade judges and justices to inhibit themselves—through bribery, threats or patronage—from a case. The case is then reassigned to other judges, each of whom inhibits himself with one pretext or another.

There are two capital cases I will narrate to you that are being delayed like this. One is a child rape-homicide case. In 2005, 10 years ago, the NBI handed evidence to the judge to convict Cleopatra Sison already inhibited themselves; the other for eight homicide case, now 20 years old, languishing in the Court of Appeals for 10 years where 17 judges have inhibited themselves from the case one after another. Worse, the defendants, already convicted by a lower court, are allowed to get out of jail by posting bail, and is now master of a Cagayan town. The families of the victims have written to three chief justices (Hilario Davide, Reynato Puno and Renato Corona) to make the cases move faster. They merely endorsed the letters to the Court of Appeals who simply ignored them. The NBI did nothing. These cases are making the Philippines the laughingstock of the world.

Let me begin with the kidnap-for-ransom case. On Sept. 27, 2001, Jacky Ramona Tin, 21 years old, was kidnapped by eight Chinese nationals. Her father, Chinese businessman Antonio Tan Bernardo, is Chinese. With her was her mother. As expected, Jacky was forcibly taken while her mother was allowed to go home to deliver the message that Jacky would be released in exchange for P150 million.

For their ransom, Jacky was shifted from one hideout to another, first in Tarlac, then to Cavite.

Her family paid the P150 million and she was released. Four members, police from Region 3 and from Camp Crame, arrested all the kidnappers and recovered the P150 million.

Kidnapping charges were filed and State Prosecutor Richard Bañalian was assigned to hear the prosecution case.

After two years, the trial was transferred to Manila upon request of the prosecution because of the presumed bias of the judge compiled with the dissenting manner that memory had changed hands. In a letter, the judge even assigned to the case although only one actually heard the trial. In Manila, five more judges were assigned to the case but only three took turns in hearing the case. Two others inhibited themselves one after another; one retired prematurely.

In mid-2006, one of the accused, Zhang De, aka Wilson Zhang, was released from detention using spurious documents from the DOJ, National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Immigration and other offices. He reportedly returned to China. When this was brought to the attention of the DOJ, Jacky was assured that an investigation will be conducted but nothing came out of it. Judge Soriano "retired" at any month of the supposed investigation, so no one punished, so no one made accountable, and the same remains unresolved to this day.

Three years ago, the case was reassigned for the fourth time to Judge Ma. Cristina Cortez-Estrada, Branch 53. A few weeks thereafter, the judge retired without deciding the case. Two more judges were assigned to the case but both inhibited themselves.

Finally, the case was assigned to Judge Angelina Bonana of Branch 52 sometime in 2009 for resolution. It is now 2011.

Meanwhile, there are indicia that the accused, now detained in Bicutan, have connections in the police area, one, reportedly, in the Makati police vice-count personnel. Last March 31, Jacky received from an unknown sender three identical text messages:

"REMAINING ME IS OVER. US boyfriend and 3 others will release date. confession of accepted by last week of MARCH and they are planning to kidnap some of their relatives and revenging there is no intention quite down to see any member of us family. They also want to the money date again after their release. DO wonder."

The term "kidnapped me" was used by the defense to explain the sale of the prosecution's star witness Jacky's boyfriend. The indicates that the text may have come from the kidnappers themselves.

A happy licensee of Jacky's cousin. One of her treasures was Singer 1 Pedal Electric Sewing Machine. Jacky's mother, Ma. Cristina Tan Bernardo with child of cancer, he married Jacky and they were married. They now have a son.

* * *

The other case now languishing in the Court of Appeals is the double murder case against Lizette Sarigumba III who, on election day of May 8, 1995, shot and killed Salvador Cayle, Johnny Abaloz and Ben Magpayo in front of a precinct in Barangay San Isidro, Baguio. Cayagan A fourth victim, Ramon de Guzman, survived. Sarigumba III is the son of then-Mayor Lizette Sarigumba Jr.

After six years of trial, Judge Teresa Soriano of the Manila RTC convicted Sarigumba III of murder and sentenced him to reclusion perpetua of frustrated murder. Antiporda appealed the decision.

On Jan. 21, 2002, CA Justice Bienvenido Reyes affirmed the RTC decision. But five years later, on Jan. 21, 2007, Reyes, claiming that his job was only to compare the records, and not weigh the evidence, voted for a re-valla.

The case was re-raffled 13 times as the justices, one after another, inhibited themselves from hearing it. The last was Justice Reyes, the original ponente, who voted to acquit Sarigumba III of murder which is still pending before the DOJ in NPS Docket II-02-13483.

Think again

Commodo de Quiros

THERE'S THE RUB

I WAS in the US last week and wrote my column before the arrest of Osama bin Laden being killed in TV and the internet. That event is far too important though to be or to witness ourselves, however behind.

My immediate response was relief, tinged with sympathy with the country that the American people might become scared again, and just as I was telling friends that I felt God gave back to loving Australia. But that's another story. Whatever the beliefs, Bin Laden was a human who carried those beliefs to terrifying ends, and I've never liked homeless, religious or secular. Anyone who imagines turning buildings to rubbish by thousands of innocent people deserves little tolerance or indeed pity. However, I felt less than the Osmas and the Bliths parties for those who live by the sword. So, yes, I'm glad Bin Laden is gone from this world.

But I did not, and do not, share the Amen corner over his killing. I saw the footage of Americans in the streets and thought that they break off, their faces inflamed by near-religious ecstasy in front of the White House lawns and at Ground Zero, and I was suddenly put off. I remembered the same scenes, except that the flames that raged and burned in them did not belong to terrorists, they belonged to people in various parts of the Arab world, their desires of joy punctuated by bursts of gunfire from assault weapons. That was after 9/11.

It's the same instinctive revulsion. It's the same bloodlust. It's the same humanness.

Does the same overarching, the US deserves heroine filled with recollections of 9/11 again and with the depiction of Bin Laden in one of the reactions to street walls the face of the cruel. The oddity that Bin Laden died on the same day as Adolf Hitler was not lost on a generals. The intended association could not be lost on its viewers as well. Bin Laden was Hitler's reincarnation in the new century.

In fact, as humanity, fanatics and mass murderers come. And all people qualified must stop by for the comparison. Any one of the various the US had supported in the Third World would. Saddam Hussein was one of them, when he was still fighting the Iranians and being supplied by the US, along with other Western countries, with weapons of mass destruction for the purpose. But they all looked the one thing they could not be their bin Laden. Osama was a man who was a businessman and other people. They had never attacked America.

Bin Laden had. Therefore, he was the most insane mass murderer on earth.

It is a testament, at least to British Muslims' history and to the religion's low key attitude to terrorism' newsbound sentiment—only passionate is the late refuge of scoundrels—Ibn Newsweek reading the change during a Bankruptcy Board October meeting to convene to an open theory of how politics, how governments and how religion is a reasoned response to polyarchic enemies. To his credit, he refused to show the gruesome pictures of Bin Laden's killing to satisfy crime but go the right man, which probably saved a lot of lives from the open prosecution.

Truly a day for us to rejoice? If the American flight, the same one that lies in the public about mayor-cows was there, really has an idea how they look before the world with the decision of self-contradictions or cancels. Well, you have no sensible how many messages of revenge a comeback in the first place, never mind escape justice, after leaving American democracy in tatters and sickening in repulsion of peaceable.

"You will not define us," said Hillary Clinton, trying to sound as tough as Barack Palin. That is all very well, except that she refuse to depict the US as the victim of oppression in the recipient of murderous a little bit to see for well-

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After resignation, what?

LAST FRIDAY, May 6, the resignation of Merceditas Gutierrez as ombudsman took effect. After she made her announcement, the rumor-mill went into overdrive. The former president felt relieved for various reasons. An impeachment trial would take up much of the Senate's time and energy, and at the expense of other important matters the Senate has to attend to. Some of those who had pushed for her impeachment were disappointed but the different reasons. Some thought that she should have exhausted every legal battle in the books after which others pressured the opposition to gaining political capital from the drama of an impeachment trial. Some also saw humor in the fact that the senators would not be able to wear the robes they had ordered for the occasion. (I myself was on the last day of the Estrada impeachment trial the senators were robes. Insulting perhaps that the spectacle would border on the ridiculous, they were enough gave up the idea.)

Now that she has resigned, what else can be done? The clear law on the subject is that "judgments in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than the removal from office and disqualification to hold any office under the Republic of the Philippines, but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to prosecution, trial and punishment, according to law." Since, however, there was no impeachment trial and Ms. Gutierrez has chosen to let just another senator, with greater reason, whatever it was that she had done before she left office cannot in any case be brought up in a criminal or administrative case.

I cannot pretend to know what her reasons were for deciding to avoid impeachment through resignation and have prosecution instead. I am sure good reasons in favor of her choice. For me, in a criminal prosecution proof beyond reasonable doubt is needed for conviction. In an impeachment trial, the quantum of proof needed for conviction is not very clear and can be colored very much by political considerations. For another, law enforcement agencies have always in criminal prosecutions, hence the senators may be a victim of political grandstanding which can take place in an impeachment trial.

An interesting question, however, is whether the disqualification in trial can still proceed even after the impeachment. There is opinion on the affirmative, thus, since the possible penalties in an impeachment are removal and disqualification, impeachment can still proceed for the purpose of the penalty of disqualification. I would then refer to American court jurisprudence in this effect, but there are good reasons for not following this opinion for our purposes. For one, an essential requisite for a person to be made subject to impeachment is that he or she must be an impeachable officer under the Constitution. So strict is this requirement that the Court has ruled that Congress may not by law add any more to the constitutional list of impeachable officers. Having already resigned from a constitutionally impeachable office, Ms Gutierrez is no longer an impeachable officer. Another reason is that disqualification can also be achieved through conviction in the criminal courts. Trying to compel a disqualification is not worth all the trouble and expense that it will entail for Congress. (Allowing an opportunity for the senators to wear their red robes is not reason enough for the trouble!)

Whatever we are making to make any judgment on the performance of Ms Gutierrez as of past ombudsmen, I suppose that the recent experience of trying to impeach an ombudsman should be a lesson for those who have the responsibility of choosing who the next ombudsman will be. That responsibility belongs to the Judicial and Bar Council and, of course, to the President. They should remember that the qualities desirable of the person to whom the responsibility is to be given. I suggest a reading of the deliberations of the Constitutional Commission on the office of Ombudsman.

Beyond the academic and supervisor qualifications required, the most important is what Section 5, Article XI calls "recognized probity and independence." What this means is that the Judicial and Bar Council and, of course, the President

The most dangerous threat

LETTERS

WITH EVERY human being producing a carbon footprint, climate change is the most dangerous threat to civilization as we know it.

The effects of climate change have no boundaries and will destroy our planet should we fail to address the issue. There is room on every battle plowing wars against man, the problem against the economic. The outcome will decide the fate of the earth.

I am more than frustrated with world leaders who continue to pollute our planet to pile more monetary boon on economies and export arrogance and their "business as usual" obstinacy.

The 16th Framework Convention on Climate Change should realize that more than 80 percent of all greenhouse gases come from fossil, a necessity for survival, and address the scrapping of MCAS and all other carbon development mechanisms.

The scenic they get down to reducing greenhouse gases and understand that forests are of value and not to be traded, clear-cut or sold for the scrap.

Have they not heard of peak oil?

Already the price of oil has reached record highs and yet we have consumed more than half of the known oil reserves. Don't they see the end of the tunnel? Why don't they ban fossil fuel-based economic energy and save the planet from extinction?

We cannot use gold and dollar currency, our social and ecological systems are more valuable than all the precious metals in the world. One cannot extract gold ore without causing harm to forests and irreversibly destroying ecosystems, and even mining and logging go on unabated despite increased opposition and awareness.

We must exclude the global economy from the control of transnational corporations.

I worry about the shortage of food since farmland supplies. Without food, we die; without oil, we can still survive.

Have I made my point?

World leaders would immediately adopt the Copenhagen Agreement and throw away the Copenhagen Accord, moving to more concrete ways to mitigate and battle climate change. I would be the first to say "Congratulations and keep up the good work."

But time waits for no one, and the era of peak oil and peak food is at hand. I fear that unknown and famine may engulf the world and the battle for resources may begin.

We marked another Earth Day only recently, but I am only reminded: how many more Earth Days will we be able to celebrate?

Let us act now with vigilance to preserve the planet we live in.

—ANTONIO M. CLARAVALL
president,
Ecological Society of the Philippines,
33 Emerald Road,
Kelsey Park, Makati City

Proposed Marcos burial promoted disunity

THE SAPIANSHIN ng mga Ilocano Bertrando (Ilagan), an association of retired school officials, teachers and other citizens, now residents based in Metro Manila, voiced wide concern and apprehension that Rome caused by a proposal to bury the late strongman of Asia in/or/in dimpan ng mga Ilocano.

Ilagayo believes that the proposed only causes[sic] in promoting divisiveness among the Filipino people as it aroused the supporters and opponents of the idea to declare Ilocano President Ferdinand E. Marcos "is here."

We question the motive behind the controversial proposal as we deplore the idea of honoring a homegrown tyrant and dictator who ordered and ruined the summary execution of activists and political dissidents, arrested journalists and writers critical of the corrupt dictatorship, plundered the nation's wealth, packed Congress, rigged elections and plebiscites and turned democratic institutions revealing the people's rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution.

Moreover, the claims of Ilocano loyalists that he was a true hero had been clearly and effectively debunked by former Sen. Rustilcon G. Gillego of the revered clan in of Sarrangon. The Rizal writer, who served in the military before becoming a lawyer, said significantly the source of blatant during the peaceful People Power Revolution on Feb. 22-25, 1986 was a very close penal clue: the Filipino people had repudiated him.

Ilagayo, therefore, joins the hosts of institutions, organizations, mass-oriented groups, opinion makers and other well-meaning sectors of society opposing the burial of the embalmed-not dictator in the sacred ground of the Heroes's.

The Marcos family friends and loyalists can give him a decent burial in the more expansive memorial park, but certainly not on the hallowed grounds of the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

FERNANDO L. SAN DIEGO,
leader/spokesman, Ilagayo
and former president, QCPIUS,
rosandiego@ymail.com

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BDO

Not Piatco's law firm

THIS REFERS to the article appearing on page A-5 of the Inquirer's May 2 publication.

Please be advised that our firm's engagements as counsel for the Philippine Commercial Int'l Bank (PCIB) was terminated on April 15, 2010, which was more than a year prior to the appointment of Senior Assistant City Agabin as the deputy executive secretary of legal affairs. Piatco is now being represented by another law firm is still in force.

We would appreciate your making this correction in the appropriate manner in your publication at the earliest possible time.

Thank you for your attention to the matter.

—RICARDO J. ROMULO,
senior partner,
Romulo, Mabanta, Buenaventura,
Sayoc & de los Angeles,
30th Floor, Citibank Tower,
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Farolan mistaken; FVR pushed airport dev't

FIDAME ALLEM no to anagrams the deceased person presented in former Senator's April 17 column, in view of his obvious lack of adequate information, he directed his talents in the wrong party when he asked how the Ramos administration "lost the will, the ability, the drive and determination to lick the power crisis, deregulate the telecom, banking and oil industries and privatized so-called as for the most country with an international airport that could compete favorably with others in the region."

Where President Fidel V. Ramos assumed office on June 30, 1992, in addition to the critical issues to focused on—the debilitating power crisis, a dysfunctional transport and communications system, the Mindanao conflict—he prioritized the country's need for modern airport facilities. FVR set out to build new airports and/or terminals to serve Manila and other parts of the Philippines (Clark, Subic, Cebu-Mactan, Iloilo, Bicol-Legazpi-Sorsogon, Central Luzon and Cebu).

With a grant from the French government, the design of Nido 2 was completed by end of 1992. A soft loan was obtained from the Japanese government to finance a portion of the construction cost. Construction began in December 1995 and on May 1, 1998, Nido 2 was formally launched.

Even while Terminal 2 was being constructed, FVR was urging the country to celebrate the centenaries of Asia 2. Under 16 Parliamentary membership, the organ agreed and formed Asia's Emerging Dragons (AED). (AEDC) which eventually addressed an "undisclosed proposal" to build Nido 3 for $350 million. Piatco and its joint venture partner Fraport AG subsequently offered to build the same terminal for the same amount—$350 million—on condition that the government bigger than that offered by AEDC, hence questions on Piatco's "Swiss challenge" under the BOT law as well as other legal issues, were raised, and AEDC came to stage.

As soon the rest, the Ramos administration ended and President Joseph Estrada took over. From January 2001 up to June 2010, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo held the reins of government. During these two successive administrations, the original contract for the construction of Nido 3 was saddled with more than a dozen supplementary contracts. The controversies that came about during this period included questionable changes in design and specifications, anti-standard quality of materials and work, involvement of officials "connected" and "power brokers," and dumped of corruption—all of which caused a very long delay in the completion of Nido 3. These problems were, indeed, more unfortunate and caused unquantifiable damage to our economy and national pride in terms of missed opportunities and loss of investors' confidence.

—NICK LAUDITAS,
spokesman of former
President Fidel V. Ramos

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Noy offers venue, coffee to ease border tension

From page A1

the country's top tourist destinations as a venue for talks to resolve a border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia.

Go-between

In fact, Mr. Aquino said he even suggested he would bring coffee for the dialogue to calm the two Asean members.

In an informal talk on Saturday night with reporters covering his six-day visit here, Mr. Aquino concluded that the summit now played go-between for Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

"I was able to talk with Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and he said, 'Perhaps, you can talk to Prime Minister Hun Sen,'" Mr. Aquino said of his exchange with the Thai leader on the sidelines of the 18th summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in Jakarta.

The President said that he is excited to host Dar ng Pilipinas' willingness to help resolve the issues between the two sides.

"I told him, 'Mr. Prime Minister, we're really interested in solving the problem. And all you have to do is tell us how we can help. It's not meddling, we're helping them we will do so. But if you want us to provide a venue, we'll give you the best resort there is in the Philippines,'" he said.

"I'll go in the advent of making you coffee so we can be table."

With the attainment of an Asean Community by 2015 as one of the agenda during the summit, Mr. Aquino said it was important that Thailand and Cambodia come to terms.

He indicated that it would be best for the 10 Asean countries to engage the global community as one bloc rather than deal with nations outside the region individually.

Asean movement

The President said that it would be difficult for Asean to move in the world stage as one if two of its major players are at odds over a territorial issue.

"We can be a mediator. We can be an observer. Just tell us how we can be of assistance to bring your confidence levels up to that you can talk," Mr. Aquino said he told Hun Sen.

Just what did Hun Sen say?

"That's the painful part. He didn't say anything. He just nodded as if to say, 'Thank you. We'll think about it,'" Mr. Aquino said.

No Asean deal on Thai-Cambodian row

JAKARTA—Southeast Asian leaders failed to achieve any breakthrough on Sunday to end deadly border skirmishes between Thailand and Cambodia that overshadowed a regional summit in Jakarta on economic integration.

The clashes around crumbling Hindu temples in disputed areas have starkly illustrated the tensions between countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) that aim to establish a single economic community by 2015, and the apparent inability of the bloc to deal with disagreements.

Indonesia, host of the 18th Asean summit, has been pressing for a deal that would prevent the surviving living unnerved by the border dispute, but in the end all that was achieved was a three-paragraph announcement that the Thai and Cambodian foreign ministers would stay an extra day in Jakarta for more talks.

"I'm coming here not to create a war of words," Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen told a news conference in which he announced that he was recalling his ambassador to Thailand after clashes flared at three temples in recent weeks, but without finding a resolution on clashes that have killed 16 people since April.

At the end of the summit, the leaders declared that the Thai-Cambodian boundary dispute should be peacefully resolved in the spirit of Asean conformity.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said Indonesia would provide a "facilitator" to assist in ending the dispute.

The summit agreed to adopt three joint statements, one on enhancing cooperation against cross-border crime, another on establishing an Asean institute for peace and reconciliation, and the third on forging an Asean position on global issues.

Deadline in 2 decades

Asean, a collection of authoritarian states and nascent democracies, has a policy of noninterference in each other's domestic affairs, and so is struggling to resolve a spat fueled by domestic nationalist sentiment abroad of likely Thai elections.

The conflict is the deadliest between countries in the region since Thailand and Laos fought a border war in 1987-88.

Hun Sen described the plenary meeting on Saturday as tense, as both sides blasted the other at the summit for adding new confusions that delayed an agreement, but he added that the atmosphere in a meeting with Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva on Sunday brokered by Indonesia, was good.

"It is very important that we hold regular," Yudhoyono told the region's leaders at his annual two-day regional summit, adding the group faced enormous challenges.

Security challenges

Singapore leader Lee Hsien Loong did not attend the summit, staying at home for general elections that saw the ruling People's Action Party easily returned to power as expected. But the foreign minister has his seat in a landmark vote for an opposition bolstered by a more skeptical younger generation.

The rest of the region's leaders, who met in a one-room conference center with an intensely curved wooden ceiling, have struggled to engage the region's 600 million people in a project to build an economic community with free movement of people and goods by 2015.

In a terror cancelled by hundreds of police and military personnel after worries over regional attacks by Islamists in Indonesia following the killing of Osama bin Laden, leaders discussed security challenges such as food and energy supply.

The fast-growing region has again become a magnet for emerging market investors and is trying to grow its $1.8 trillion economy by separating bilateral trade deals with the European Union and improving transport links with her trading partner China.

Previous meetings have often been overshadowed by controversy over member Burma (Myanmar), which wants to host the gathering in 2014. A Burma desire presidency would almost certainly mean boals of protest from the West, further denting the bloc's credibility. *Reports from Reuters and Norman Bordadora*

Survey message: Decline of single-issue presidency

From page A1

ministration's performance dropped 18 points to 46 in March from 64 in November last year.

The survey, conducted from March 4 to 7, showed that the administration's net satisfaction rating, computed with that in the survey in November last year, fell by 4 points to the Western Metro 59 to 51; by 16 points in Mindanao, from 67 to 47; and by 27 points in Luzon (excluding Metro Manila), from 69 to 42.

In Metro Manila, however, the administration's net satisfaction rating was up by a point, from 69 to 70.

By socioeconomic class, the administration's net satisfaction rating plunged 41 points among the upper and middle class (ABC)—the biggest drop among the classes. The rating dropped by 16 points among the working class (D and by 15 points among the poorest class (E.

Administration officials tried to show they were not disturbed by the survey. The President's spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, was dismissive. He said the survey showed that the people recognized the Aquino administration's reform-many "firsts," including curbing criminality and addressing national problems.

"At 8 months, it is important to note that satisfaction with the administration remains at near-record levels," he said.

'Good news' campaign

But this mood of complacency was contradicted by the fact that the administration scrambled to dent an aggressive proposals in enacting the public-work "good news" about its achievements in a bid to arrest the fall in the satisfaction rating. The Palace communications group was tasked enough to explain the President's "working style" in answers to criticisms over his "hands-off" position in issues involving his allies and the Presidency "was not working hard enough to solve the country's problems."

The survey results came on the heels of Gutierrez's resignation, indicating that the President's high-profile campaign to rid the judiciary of what the Ombudsman has not appeared to help him in preventing the plunge of his public satisfaction rating.

The message sent by the opinion surveys seems to be that bashing a public scapegoat has not helped in halting the decline of his approval rating. The survey results are reasoning that Mr. Aquino has to do more than pushing his presidency on the line on the single issue of battling corruption, or instigate policies in the slogan, "If there is no corruption, there is no poor."

Examined more closely, this slogan is a simplistic reduction to anti-poor. True corruption has debilitating economic costs, but it takes more than slogans to institute programs that can create jobs, put money into the hands of the poor to help them cope with inflation.

Porsche sports car

The surveys suggest that if the President has to arrest the slide of his public satisfaction before it becomes a free fall, his agenda of ardent and reform has to be expanded beyond the single issue of corruption. Partly to blame for the decline of his rating is the wrong public display of his acquisition of Mr. Aquino's showy purchase of a Porsche sports car.

In a survey, also in March, 1008 asked respondents whether the purchase of the car "is not a good example for a president of a country like the Philippines." Nearly half of the respondents, or 48 percent, agreed that Mr. Aquino was not setting a good example with the purchase, 33 percent disagreed, and 219 percent were undecided.

The survey in March showed signs of labor as the public-approval rate for social amelioration programs. The satisfaction rating stayed "moderate" for implementing housing programs for the poor, down by 3 points from plus-53 to plus 50, and eradicating graft and corruption, down by 8 points from plus-22 to plus 14.

Other indicators from the surveys showed that the anticorruption—or "straight path"—campaign had not gained ground until then beating of the single issue. The issues influence public opinion most perilous politics, to note stealing ... no more bother."

Weak in governance

The Washington-based Global Integrity Report in 2010 gave the Philippines a "very weak" overall rating of 57 in 2010, down from its "moderate" score of 71 out of 100 in 2008 on issues of "good governance, transparency and freedom media."

According to the report, "The overall score of the Philippines has significantly decreased, primarily driven by a widening implementation gap between its laws on the books and their actual implementation ... While anticorruption legislation is strong, the administration agency does not have the ability to effectively deliver its result."

The Hong Kong-based Political & Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd.'s (PERC) latest Asian Intelligence report showed that the Philippines continued to have a "serious corruption problem," with an overall score in a regional survey surveying even though it did not slip to a ranking of 14 economies.

On a scale of one to 10—with 10 being the worst—the Philippines garnered a score of 8.9, poorer than 2010's 8.25.

PERC polled respondents on their views on political, institutional and private sector corruption in the Philippines. It said that the magnitude of the Philippines' problems was "definitely not so large that it has many cross-border implications."

"The Philippines is, perhaps, the Asian country that has been burnt most by corruption," the report said. "If one looked at the real estate bubble in Asia and its collapse in many fields."

Corruption remains high

The latest PERC survey put the Philippines in fourth place in terms of political corruption with a rating of 8.17. In terms of institutional corruption, the country was third-worst with a score of 8.58, in a tie with Cambodia.

Asked how effective the government is in terms of prosecuting and punishing individuals involved in corruption, respondents scored the Philippines a 3.75. The government's enthusiasm to addressing the problem was scored a slightly worse 4.10. Respondents were also so very tolerant of corruption, with a score of 9.25.

With its flagship project locked into the single issue of curbing corruption, the administration is under pressure to show results unless it wants to see its already-important issue of economic growth and reducing poverty. Without these results it is likely to end up as a do-nothing government. The surveys show that the Aquino presidency has started to slide downhill for a crash.

Republic of the Philippines

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Executive Director

May 6, 2011

Assistant Editor Tony Gerochi

Across the NATION

P-Noy to lease land to 560,000 squatters

By Norman Bordadora

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Imagine relocating your family from a 20-square meter shanty in the congested city to a two-hectare farm in your home province where you can earn a decent living.

President Aquino on Saturday night told the media about a potential game changer to solve Metro Manila's problem of informal settlers while showing up the population in the country's agricultural communities as home the driver for food self-sufficiency.

"There is a problem on one side. There is also an opportunity. So what is the opportunity? The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have made an inventory. We can give each of these 560,000 (informal settler) families two hectares each," President Aquino said.

In an informal talk with reporters covering his working visit in Jakarta, Mr. Aquino said there are more than 560,000 squatter families in Metro Manila and it is estimated that one of four residents in Metro Manila is an informal settler.

Meantime in the countryside, the number of farmers is going down to the detriment of the government's food security efforts.

Mr. Aquino said providing the land could be covered by a lease agreement. He said the two departments have identified 1.5 million hectares for distribution to the squatters who would avail themselves of the program to relocate possibly to their respective home provinces.

The poverty beneficiaries, he said, are the informal settlers that live data personally such as those in Boodiwang.

"The towns are that a house would be provided for you, you'd have to plant crops, you'd take care of chicken, and the carriage would all be yours. If you abandon the property or you didn't meet the conditional, it would be taken away" President Aquino said.

Mr. Aquino added that the program could be done in such a way that there is a degree of matching an informal settler family and the property such that the family would be returning to its home province.

"The Department of Agriculture said that to a large degree they can be matched," President Aquino said.

Mr. Aquino said the residents who would avail themselves of the program would also be provided with farm inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and implements.

"It's a complete package," President Aquino said.

Mr. Aquino would not go through the terms of the provisions, whether the program is to be leased or sold.

He said the agencies involved in the plan, including the National Anti-Poverty Commission, were still drawing up the programs that were expected to be completed in a month's time and would present it to the at least four groups that in turn would present them to the concerned communities.

HOOK FISHING A boy rows his back at fishing using hook and nylon string on the rugged coastal area of Real, Quezon, facing the Pacific Ocean.

Negros to build 4 power plants

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Plans are underway to build at least four power plants that may answer the expected power shortage by 2015.

These hydroelectric power plants with combined production of 67 megawatts are expected to be built in Negros Occidental, said Jose Mo. Montelibano, chief of staff of Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr.

Aside from the hydroelectric power plants, he added Global Business Power Corp. planned to construct a coal-fired power plant with a capacity of 80 MW by 2020.

A hydroelectric power plant, with power capacity of 40 MW, will be constructed in Bago City. It is 75 MW plant will also be built in Bais/Sitalan City and another plant, with 112 MW capacity, will be put up in Sagay City.

Palencia said he didn't know the specific dates for the start of their construction.

Marañon and Valencia met with Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras Thursday to discuss the non-stocking of the hydro electric power plants in the province.

Warning

During the meeting, Almendras had warned that Negros Occidental could have a power shortage by 2015 if it did not take steps to produce its own electricity especially the province's double-digit growth would increase its power demand.

Palencia said the governor met with Almendras to seek the secretary's help after they discovered that some power firms had blocked off the rivers for hydroelectric power by obtaining service contracts from the Department of Energy.

"We were surprised because they did not coordinate with the local government units as required, and we never knew that they were conducting feasibility studies, rather than dealing with us like Coral Holdings, Mo Power Management Corp. and Alsons Philippines," he said.

The issuance of these service contracts to other firms to operate where Coral, Mo and Alsons plan to build hydroelectric power plants prevented them from doing so, Valencia said.

Almendras agreed to go over the list of service contracts granted by the DOE and to cancel those that are unproductive and non-performing within the month, he said.

This will open areas to those really interested in building the hydroelectric plants and have the financial and technical capability to do so, he added.

"This will pave the way for the construction of the three plants," Valencia said, noting that it will take five to six years to build one.

Woman remembers son who battled with cancer

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Eleven-year-old Joel Borden knew he was losing his battle with cancer.

But it didn't stop him from dreaming of becoming a banker and engineer when he graduated with honors at the Mandalagan Elementary School in Bacolod City.

He died at the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Regional Hospital in Bacolod on April 26.

But he managed to ask his mother, Jocelyn, "to be strong" after fighting for nine years to keep her son alive.

As the world celebrates Mother's Day today, Jocelyn, 36, is fighting to be strong for her son even if thinking about him always brings tears to her eyes.

Joel was the only child of Jocelyn and Ruel. They got married in 1995 but she didn't get pregnant immediately.

"I prayed to God to give me a child and promised Him I would be a good mother," she said.

Her prayers were answered four years later. In 1999, Joel was born.

But when Joel turned three, the family discovered that he had leukemia.

Joel underwent chemotherapy and blood transfusions. The cost of his treatment was steep for the Bordens. Ruel worked as a welder and Jocelyn took on many jobs just to make ends meet.

Ruel went to Saudi Arabia and worked as crane operator to pay for the rising costs and debts incurred because of his son's treatments.

Jocelyn said she would be ready to give her life to exchange for her son's.

"I prayed to God that He make my son well, even if it meant giving the cancer to me instead," she added.

"My son was very loving. No matter how tired I was from work, when he came home from school at the end of the day, that all seemed to go away because of the joy he brought in our home," Jocelyn said.

In 2007, Joel, who was down to, joined the first Summer Camp in Negros Occidental, a group that brings children with cancer and with serious illness as well as those children whose parents have cancer.

And Joel was among the 16 victims of the volunteers in the camp because he was not only lovable and cute, he was also smart.

He had told the volunteers (but his wish was to eat in fast (roasted) pig). His face lit up when the volunteers gave him lechon. There would be a lechon waiting for him every time he joined the annual camp.

They thought that Joel underwent remission. But when he turned 11, the cancer was discovered to have metastasized to his testes, and his central nervous system.

Although pale and thin, Joel continued to go to the Summer Camp gatherings to be with his friends and have fun.

Although he had missed school due to the treatment, Joel's spirit could be contained to excel in Math and maintained good grades. He even represented his school in Math competitions.

He was also ranked eighth among the top graduates. He would have received honors ranking but he could not earn for extra-curricular activities since he was often sick.

Last March, Joel had been in and out of the hospital. Still, he wanted to be well enough to attend his graduation rites.

On April 1, he had to be carried up and seated on the stage for his graduation at the Mandalagan Elementary School.

He gave speaker after his graduation. "What about my dreams?" Joel asked his mother. She cried.

This Mother's Day, Jocelyn said she only has the memories of her son to ponder on.

Farmers hit DENR for 'bias'

By Dolly T. Mabel-Jr
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—Farmers from the Bondoc Peninsula in Quezon province assailed the "pro-land-lord bias" of the provincial office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The farmers, in a rally held here recently, said the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) has not been able to process a single application of the more than 6,000 hectares of public land under the Community-Based Forest Management Program.

The protesters belonging to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bondoc Peninsula (KMBP), said public lands were being given to big landlords, despite more than a decade of sustained dialogue with successive government agencies.

Ramon Jumbar said the granting of more than a thousand hectares of public land to a big landlord through the Sustainable Integrated Forest Management Agreement (SIFMA) is an area with mixed timber companies, despite the MOA's "ban" since by ignoring the demands of affected tenants and occupants for security of land tenure in public lands."

Landlord

The farmers were apparently referring to incumbent provincial Board Member Victor Reyes, scion of the biggest landlord in Quezon, the late Don Domingo Reyes.

Jumbar also assailed his ownership of the land and explained that it was awarded to him by the government in the late 1960's through the same reforestation program.

"The land is now planted with mahogany, gmelina and other soft woods. It was all legally acquired with my partnership with the government tree planting program," Reyes said.

Last month, Reyes donated 18 hectares of his land to his hometown to be used by the Philippine National Police housing project and training purposes.

Legal process

The farmers claimed that Board Member Reyes, who they noted had been assigned in Bondoc Peninsula since 1998, has been unable to settle a single land conflict.

Reyes refuted the farmers' allegations, stressing the DENR has been extending to the tenants raised by the farmers.

"I sympathize with their struggles to own the land they till but we have to observe all the legal processes," Reyes explained over the phone.

Reyes explained that the DENR regional office has created a technical working group tasked to look into the plight of farmers in Bondoc Peninsula in the province's third district.

He said the farmers should ask the Cenro (Community Environment and Natural Resource Office) based in Catanauan town in the Bondoc Peninsula for updates.

Whale sharks can now be tracked in Donsol

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SIGA, CITY—If you're going to Donsol town in Sorsogon for an encounter with a "friendly" (whale shark) on a dive day, you are not likely to get disappointed.

According to data obtained by the Department of Tourism (DOT) from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), 166 whale sharks are now in the waters of Donsol.

The number was determined through photo identification and satellite tracking systems introduced by the WWF to protect the "gentle giants," considered the world's biggest fish, from the intensive activity of swimming with humans.

Maria Rosecelis, tourism regional director, said the WWF was relaying the information to her office to promote and market the breathing encounter, the main tourism product in Donsol.

One of the rules to avoid stressing the sea creatures is to limit the number of registered swimmers in one boat encounter with a whale shark, with a maximum of 30 boats allowed at any given time in the open sea.

Rosecelis, however, lamented that the rules were violated during the Holy Week with some 5,000 tourist arrivals reported. "Tourists became impatient and would curse if it took them a long time to wait," she said.

The WWF tracking showed that the same whale sharks visit Donsol every year, usually from January to May.

Also, the waters appear to be both feeding and breeding grounds following the discovery of a 10-inch juvenile in the area, Rosecelis said.

The whale sharks are monitored through photo identification, which recognizes them individually from the pattern of white spots on the dark side. The method is similar to that used to discerning the constellation from night images stored by the Hubble Space Telescope, according to WWF information given to the DOT.

Since 2007, the photo identification of whale sharks visiting Donsol has been going on. Data are stored in the Manila-based research organization, Ecocean, and set accessible through an Internet-based software application.

So far, the WWF has recorded a total of 328 whale sharks in Donsol, of which 316 were recorded last year.

Whale shark interaction remains the top ecotourism attraction in the country with a 19 percent growth of tourist arrivals in Sorsogon during the first quarter of 2011.

The WWF described the whale shark photo identification as non-invasive approach in understanding the uniqueness of individual animal.

TOURISTS may no longer have to wait long to see whale sharks in Donsol town in Sorsogon, which is famous for its whale shark "butanding" interaction. There is a way to track down these gentle creatures.

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Mama Coring: Teacher, wife, mother, environmentalist

By Cris Evert B. Lim
Reporter

MANDAUE CITY—Lawyer Gloria Ternura Ramos has become a staunch environment advocate because of her mother, Socorro.

Ramos remembered that even as her mother juggled her responsibilities as a teacher, wife as a judge and mother of nine children, Mama Coring managed to keep a garden in their residence in Barangay Guadalupe, Cebu City.

"She was the original activist. She speaks what she thinks but she is very supportive of what we do," said Ramos, coconvenor of Philippine Earth Justice Center (PEJC), a Cebu-based nongovernment organization.

She said her mother already had a "recycling attitude" before "Reduce, reuse, recycle" spread as an environmental campaign.

"She would always have something to do with small things, such as Toilet Ducks and wrappers. She was the first environmentalist among us," Ramos said.

She recalled that her father, the late Nestorinator Ramos, who was a judge in Ormoc City in Leyte was not always home. So her older brothers, Saldemero, was her mother's sidekick in raising the younger ones.

Illuma Coring belonged to the Cortes clan and was a close relative of the Osmeñas.

Both are political families in Mandaue and have produced mayors and councilors, like former Mayor Thadeo Osmeña and incumbent Mayor Jonas Cortes.

"But my mother was not interested in politics. Growing up, I saw how passionate she was in her teaching vocation," Ramos said.

As a principal, Mama Coring would go to schools to remove villages to meet students and check the school's performance.

Between visits, she would find time to nurture her plants in her garden and to talk to her children.

With a hands-on mother who never failed to remind her children of their inherent social responsibilities, Ramos and the and her siblings had "a very happy childhood."

As with any family, they also experienced trying times, but Ramos said it was always Mama Coring who brought them back together.

Mama Coring suffered a stroke, which triggered multiple aneurysms in her brain.

She was admitted to the hospital on April 29 and died on May 2, only five days after she celebrated a meaningful 90th birthday attended by her children and grandchildren.

On hindsight, Ramos said it was the examples of her Mama Coring that fueled her passion to fight for environmental protection and conservation.

Ramos and PEJC colleagues are known as "the group who sues individuals and institutions that destroy nature and environment."

Ramos said she would continue to espouse the values her mother had taught her.

While she grew up wanting to be a lawyer like her father, Ramos is also an advocate like her mother. She teaches law subjects at University of Cebu.

She has become what she is through Mama Coring's examples.

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BAH DI DIHE Despite Tropical Storm "Bebeng's" warning signal No. 1, Manny Pacquiao's boxing fans [left photo] in Lucena City, many of them with umbrellas, braved the rains to watch their idol Filipino-American Shane Mosley on a giant screen in front of the Quezon provincial capitol building. Right photo shows jail personnel and detainees watch the title match at the Makati City Jail grounds.

Lopsided Pacquiao win over Mosley

From page A1

gains was more powerful and faster than he thought.

Pacquiao, who was busily marked when he appeared in and out of in the post-fight press conference, raised his arms in victory after the 12-round bout with 30 knockouts.

Mosley, who wore dark shades to hide his reddened eyes, fell to 46-7-1, with one no-contest and 35 knockouts.

It marked the third straight time that Pacquiao went the distance, although Mosley was not known as a Ghanaian Joshua Clottey and Mexican Antonio Margarito.

Counting his 11th round stoppage of Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto, the 32-year-old Pacquiao has now gone 48 rounds without knocking out an opponent, causing concern that his body is being worn down faster than it should.

Boos from the crowd

Clearly, however, Pacquiao was in peak enough form to weather whatever Mosley could offer.

Except for the first round, when he was still trying to find his angles and probing Mosley's 7- 1/2-inch reach advantage, Pacquiao fought the fight to his calibrated opponent.

Having left Pacquiao's power, however, Mosley, a veteran of 11 world title fights, refused to engage the Filipino pound-for-pound king sas to see from the bench coach's stool, damning him from the crowd.

It left look in the ninth also scolded Mosley who said he developed blisters starting in the ninth round.

As expected, the three judges gave Pacquiao the unanimous decision, drawing a smile from his wife Jinkee, who was flanked on the giant screen as the decision was announced.

Push ruled a knockdown

Jose Abanel and Duane Ford scored it 120-108 and 120-107, respectively, for Glenn Trowbridge had it at 119-108 after giving Mosley the 10th round when the normally competent Manny Pacquiao relied a Mosley push as a knockdown and gave Pacquiao the count.

The stunned Pacquiao, who banged at the backstanding Mosley before the round closed.

In the 12th round, Pacquiao again staggered Mosley, who was unable to cope up with the Filipino's flurry of punches.

Pacquiao, who donned yellow gloves as a symbol of peace and unity, did try to topple Mosley in the last round, but eventually stopped and allowed Mosley to escape what could have been his first knockout loss.

To Pacquiao's credit, he was only the second man to knock the too-chinned Mosley down, with Vernon Forrest doing the trick twice in the second round in 2002.

Filipinos, many of whom herded Pacquiao's cell to wear yellow and join him in what he said was his campaign against poverty, and even foreigners gave Pacquiao a rousing ovation after he'd done his thanksgiving prayer at the corner.

President Noli Aquino delivered parting jibes to Mosley in the ring against Pacquiao.

"Nobody can really perform against him," Aquino said. "Some of those guys are pretty good fighters, but nobody in their whole career has ever faced somebody like (Pacquiao). Everybody is going to look the same way."

Chorice sings

Jamie Jamison, lead singer of the Forevers, sang "The Eye of the Tiger" as Pacquiao entered the arena.

International singing sensation Charice Pempengco later gave the right rendition of the national anthem.

Reggae lit, Good J did the entrance song for Mosley. Tyrese sang the "Star Spangled Banner," while Jamie Foxx did "God Bless America."

Bacolod City Mayor Bing Leonardia carried the Philippine flag.

Pork was there

Among the celebrities present was socialite Daria Ilkova, a fan of Pacquiao.

Rapper Lil Cease supporting him, grilled Mexican tenor Jorge Bony stopped Wilfredo Vazquez in the 12th round to claim the Puerto Rican's WBO super bantamweight title.

The 31-year-old Bony improved to 37-6-2 with 44 knockouts while Vazquez dropped to 20-1-3 with 17 knockouts.

With Bony pounding Vazquez relentlessly on the ropes, his corner threw a plastic bottle of water at the middle of the ring as a sign of surrender.

Former world champion Rolly Peñik also made a successful return when he bested unbeaten unknown prospect Alfonso Lopez by majority decision in a 10-round super middleweight bout.

Lilia-born Rodel Mayol eked out a similar majority decision over Mexican Javier Gallo. Two judges scored it 96-92 for Mayol (note: 20-2-2 with 12 knockouts), while Gallo fell to 17-4-1, nine knockouts.

$1M million

Earlier, Pacquiao figured in a minor car accident while returning to the hotel from hearing Mass. The SUV he was riding in was bumped from behind by one of the cars carrying his security escorts.

Though shaken a bit, Pacquiao was unhurt and he showed it against Mosley.

Pacquiao, a probabilitive 9-1 favorite as fight time, stands to make a guaranteed $20 million, with an additional $30 million looming due to the strong paper-per-view and closed-circuit sales.

He thanked President Aquino for congratulating him on a victory. Chief would further outlook his bypass on boxing's only eight division world champion.

In closing, Pacquiao invited the media to a postfight concert at Mandalay Bay Events and Garden. There was still some energy left in him. **With a report from AP**

They'd rather see fight than evacuate

From page A1

Unmastered by Tropical Storm "Bebeng" were dumped by almost residents of clustered barangays in Legazpi City refused to leave, preferring to watch a live telecast of Pacquiao's fight with Shane Mosley in Las Vegas.

In Cebu City, a 67-year-old mother died of a heart attack in the 10th round of the fight, after Pacquiao suffered a controversial knockdown.

At the San Andres Sports Complex in Malate, Manila, dozens of people lined their blood pressure checked as the height of the excitement over the bout.

"The fight is dampening our evacuation efforts," Albay Gov. Joey Salceda said in a text message minutes before the fight began. "Only a hour ago, 12,000 residents evacuated for the Albay Astrodome as we the telecast.

"I can't just put television sets in evacuation centers, it's too expensive," Salceda said. "I just hope Manny finishes the fight early. At least by the final round perhaps, so we can also launch down Bebeng."

In a pronouncement, Salceda had ordered the evacuation of more than 28,000 families—comprising 120,000 people—living in flood- and landslide-prone areas in Albay villages.

It was not known how many complied with the order.

Aquino calls Pacquiao

Despite the threat from Bebeng, thousands flocked to government-run gymnasiums in the cities of Legazpi, Naga in Camarines Sur, and Lucena in Quezon to watch the fight, cheering for the Filipino ring idol despite the downpour and strong winds outside.

President Aquino was in Jakarta attending a summit of Southeast Asian leaders and declined to see the fight, but he immediately congratulated Pacquiao on his victory.

"He showed the discipline, determination and the true valor of the Filipino," Mr. Aquino said in a statement.

"His victory was made even brighter by his choice of wearing yellow boxing gloves that symbolize his being a participant in our fight against poverty . . . Manny doesn't forget to look back to help his countrymen," the President said.

Mr. Aquino spoke with Pacquiao on the phone hours after the bout, congratulating him and saying he was sorry he missed the fight on television.

'Boring fight'

While elated at Pacquiao's unanimous 12-round points win, many of his fans were disappointed that he failed to knock out his aging American foe.

"The previous fights were more exciting. Today was quite boring because Manny didn't do much," Patricia Tolentino said at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Many of the spectators were quiet most of the time but cheered wildly when Pacquiao floored Mosley in the third round.

Most of them came in small groups, like families enjoying the weekend and the celebration of Mothers' Day.

At the Barangay San Antonio in Makati City, a predominantly male crowd crammed their orders into two makeshift tents that flooded them and the TV screen from the downpour.

"Clearly, it was a lopsided match. He's fighting an old guy," John Collado, 47, said.

"Mosley was very cautious during the fight," said Larry Valles, 39, who came with his family to see the telecast. "Mosley may have realized he could not beat Manny."

The spectators gasped in disbelief when Pacquiao hit the deck in the 11th after suffering what the referee called a push-down. Some cursed, others sighed when Mosley had pushed Pacquiao to the canvas and the crowd booed.

Cheers for 'Dirty Harry'

At the San Andres Complex, about 7,000 people, mostly men, whooped it up every time Pacquiao landed a solid punch.

They cheered louder when a photo advertisement featuring Mayor Alfredo Lim and Vice Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso appeared on the screen.

Many were unimpressed with Mosley. "He keeps running. All he does is jab," a man girlfriend. Another answered as Mosley "keep hugging?"

Tawiwi-seven people had their blood pressure checked by nurse Sean Nava.

Just sparring

Fans in northern and central Luzon were also dumbfound with the fight.

In Tuburanan City, governor Amelita Jaurela Sajorda said: "It looked like just a sparring session."

"Yet, went a knockout," chorused the crowd in the gymnasium of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology.

"It was the most boring fight of Pacquiao so far," said Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy III, who joined hundreds of residents and police in watching the bout at the provincial capitol amphitheater in Ilagan town.

Mother's Day

In the Visayas, the Mother's Day celebration and the annual fiesta mirth were delayed as fans also watched the bout.

Traffic dropped in the cities of Cebu, Bacolod and Iloilo as most residents were glued to their television and radio sets. As in Pacquiao's previous matches, police reported no crime incidents.

Msgr. Esteban Binghay, episcopal vicar of the Cebu Archdiocese, finished his 6 a.m. Mass early because he said most of the people wanted to catch the pay-per-view.

But the excitement was too much for Sonny Esterman, a former policeman. He suffered a heart attack after Pacquiao went down in the 11th round.

He was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

Bad weather

In Bacolod City, Mother's Day lunches were held later than usual as Negrenses gathered around their televisions sets and at public venues to cheer for Pacquiao.

Heavy rains the usual number of people attended Manny Pacquiao's matches in Bacolod.

Despite the bad weather, thousands also watched the fight at ETS plaza in Tacloban City where a wide screen was just set up by the provincial government.

In Iloilo City, hundreds of fans packed hotels, bars and restaurants with live screenings of the match. Tickets were worth P600 each. "Thousands more jammed their favorite watering-hole public places.

A teary-eyed Dionisia Sucaldito, also known as Mommy Il, emerged seemingly exhausted from the prayer room of the Pacquiao mansion in General Santos City.

The champion's mother attended a 7 a.m. Mass before proceeding to the mansion to say the rosary. She started praying as early as 10 a.m.

"Nothing is impossible if we pray to the Lord," she said.

She said one of her wishes is for her son to stop fighting. She is celebrating her third birthday on May 15.

She said her birthday would coincide with the blessing ceremony of Pacman's 19th million-peso gymnasium in Kamber village.

Another recognition from the military's ranks is most famous ensemble.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Oban Jr. said they are preparing a special award for Pacquiao when he returns home.

Time to retire

In Congress, lawmakers were divided on whether the Filipino boxing icon should now retire.

Iloilo's Rep. Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara said Pacquiao should hang up his gloves if there were no more worthy challenges "for him to prove."

But Kabela Rep. Liwayli Arguelles said Pacquiao should continue to fight because he was still at the top of his game. "He should fight not for the money, but for national pride and unity that he is able to engender," Arguelles said. Reports from Mar Arguelles, Delfin Mallari Jr. and Sharon Barrameda, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Armand Galang and Nonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon; Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Jhaymee Aspillaicos, Carla P. Gomez, Joey A. Gabieta, Edson delos Reyes, Jaci Arnaiz and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas; Agaldes E. Jontila, Rosa Mary de Guzman, Jerome Aning, Philbarter Maghirang and Rachel Uriel, Inquirer Mindanao; Norman Bordadora, Nina Calleja, Jayson Gomez, Miko Morales, Ed C. Cabucan-pan, Christine D. Zamora, Irene Pazzibugan, Nancy Carvajal and intern Jessica Santiago in Manila

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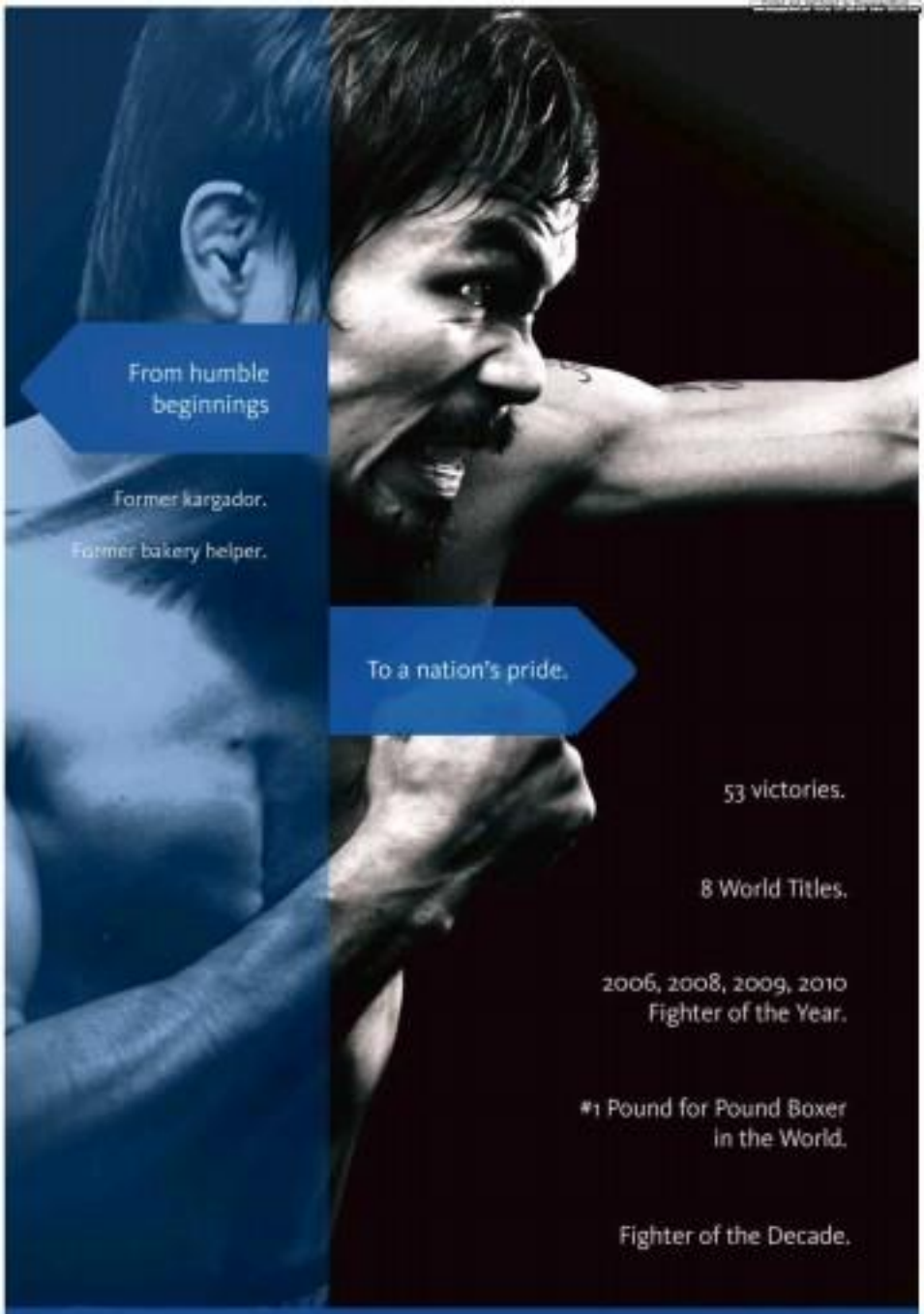

Drive and determination made him a national icon.
A shining example of a life made extraordinary.
Congratulations Manny Pacquiao
for another extraordinary victory.

Photo by: Howard Schatz

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DID YOU KNOW

On 9 May 1570 in Cebu, Jesus, born on May 9, 1570 in Cebu City, married Andres Dimitpiok Salac. On Jesus's account as the Cebuano hero, Master of the Philippines, had a Catholic marriage with Dimitpiok at the Basilica Church and later remarried two secondary to Bulacan rites. Initiated into the Women's Chapter of the Philippines, she was keeper of the Philippines's unpublished documents. **Ambeth Ocampo, Inquirer Research**

9 WORKERS HURT

Lightning strikes airplane

By DJ Yap

NINE workers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) suffered minor injuries after lightning struck a parked Philippine Airlines (PAL) plane during a heavy downpour on Saturday night. They were declared out of danger soon after.

Five ground crew workers of PAL and four aircraft cleaners and loaders employed by Skyblue Maintenance Services were at Terminal 2, taking shelter from the rain under the 320-seat plane when it was hit by lightning, PAL said in a Facebook posting.

The explosion was due to burst for Bangkok when the rains and lightning struck.

Miguel Pinon, 31, one of the cleaners, was at the counseling when he heard "a loud sound and I felt an impact that made him lose his balance. Still in his head [on the floor]," a report by Dr. Josefina Tiu, the medical officer on duty at the airport, said.

Another victim, Noel Manangan, 31, an employee of the PAL-affiliated Philippine Aviation Security Service Corp., lost consciousness. He later told the doctor he could not remember what happened to him.

The other victims were identified as Geomanuel Collantes, 23; Angelito Francis de Leon, 29; Gil Alarcado; and Pedro Cenidoza. The names of the three remaining victims were not immediately available.

Tiu, in her report, noted "no signs of burns" on Pinon, Manangan, Collantes and De Leon, the four patients she examined. She treated them for bruises, fractures and wounds, among other injuries.

The victims were taken to San Juan de Dios Hospital and Makati Medical Center.

Airport traffic was not affected. The 320 was taken to the hangar for inspection.

Police probe slaying of prison official

By Mike Navales

TUBURBAN City police has started looking for clues into the killing of a ranking Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) official in La Union province on Friday night as investigators tried to determine who was behind the attack.

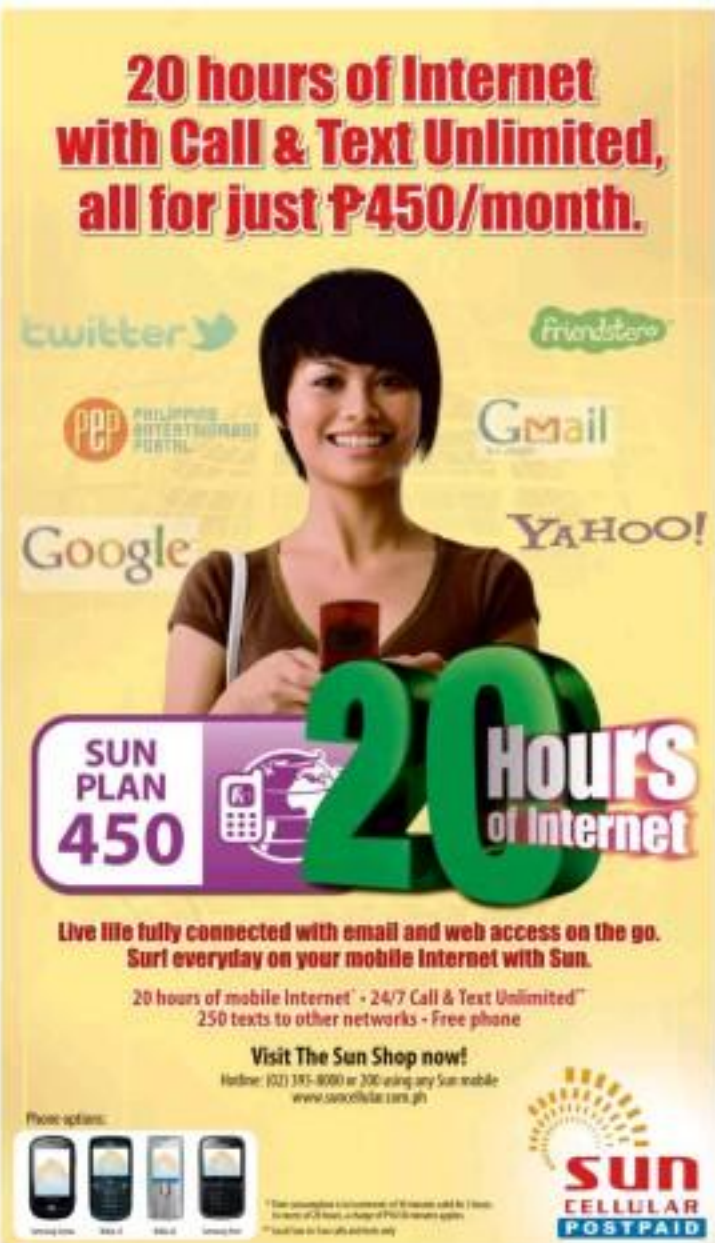
In a phone interview, Supt. Ednar Moya, officer in charge of the city police, said he had visited a group of protesters to find out if BuCor Assistant Director Rodrigo Mercado received any death threats before he was ambushed while on his way home on Friday night.

Mallo declined to specify if the attack on Mercado had anything to do with him being a top-level official of the bureau which oversees the administration of penal facilities around the country like the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City.

He said all questions regarding the killing of Mercado should be referred to the San Fedro police in Laguna as they were in charge of investigating the incident.

"If they request for assistance for the investigation, we will be ready," Mallo said over the phone.

Mercado was on his way home when an undetermined number of assailants on board



Jr., 31, of Manila, writes: "There is still garbage [in the creek near the intersection of Quezon Avenue and Araneta Avenue. The creek was filled at the height of Tropical Storm 'Ondoy' but the people living there apparently never learned their lesson because they continue to throw trash into the waterway."

Metro Citizen's call 4467

MRT security guards need gun safety lessons

At around 5 a.m. on March 5, I was waiting for a train on the southbound side of the MRT station in Ayala's Center Cubao when a security guard on the platform who was escorting a woman carrying a baby (considering what ransomware we have in electronic-shopped this shotgun. Fortunately, it didn't go off. If it had, it could have hit the woman standing in front of her and a couple and their young daughter who were standing beside her. Security guards of the MRT should be given a refresher course on proper gun handling. Taking the MRT is already a risk in itself due to threat posed by terrorists, malfunctioning train parts, etc. without adding the possibility of being shot by a careless security guard.
Anna, 40, Quezon City

Leaking water pipes in Manila, QC

There is a leaking water pipe on C. M. Recto near Ben-Lilliwood's exit of La Salette Fishing Supply in Manila. This has been going on for more than two months. There is also another leak on Del Mar Highway, Balingasay Street in front of Mandaluyan in Quezon City. This leak has been there for a month.
Tan Wilkinson, 50, Quezon City

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2 robbers slain in shootout

By Jayson T. Gomil

TWO ROBBERY suspects were shot dead by police men who chased them after they held up a woman who was shopping in Divisoria, Manila, on Saturday afternoon.

Pres. members of the Manila Police District (MPD) Station 2 in Tondo rushed to the victim's side when they heard her cry for help or sound-up to 16.

They immediately got into a patrol car after a number of bystanders told them that the robbers had escaped on a Mitsubishi-brand motorcycle.

A chase ensued with the police following the getaway as it entered Ilaw Abad Santos Avenue.

When the robbers sighted in front of St. Helen Elementary School, they fired upon their pursuers who retaliated, resulting in their death.

MPD Station 2 commander Supt. Ernesto Tandoy Jr. said the two men were members of the Commando Gang, a notorious robbery holdup group in the city. One was identified as Alex Galvez who, according to the police official, had been in and out of jail several times for robbing people.

Recovered from the two men were two revolvers, believed to have been stolen victims, a knife and a gun, Tandoy added.

Construction worker killed

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A LABORER fell to his death from the third floor of a construction site which was under construction in Quezon City, according to a police report.

PO3 Randy Bonello of the Quezon City Police District identified the victim as Rolando Legaspi, 31.

He suffered a skull fracture as a result of the fall.

According to Bonello, the victim was carrying wires on Saturday afternoon when he slipped and lost his balance. He fell headfirst to the ground floor.

Police said the accident took place at around 1 p.m. at the Bonifay Townhouses located at the corner of Edsa (ave.) and E-1 Streets in Bahayan, Quezon City.

Based on their investigation, the police said there was a lack of safety measures during enforced at the construction site.

"There was no net in case of accidents and the workers were not wearing hard hats as standard procedure," Bonello added.

He said that Legaspi was still alive when he was rushed by coworkers to the East Avenue Medical Center but he eventually died of his injuries just before midnight that same day.

Based on the statement of the victim's coworkers, Legaspi was preparing some wooden beams and cutting wires when he lost his balance and plummeted to his death.

Police probe...

From page A10

passengers in front of his vehicle so it was trailing on the outbound road in San Pedro, Laguna. He died as he was being brought to a hospital.

There were earlier theories that his killing was related to the discovery in April by police authorities of the suspects' illegal drug trade inside the maximum security facility in the New Bilibid Prisons. The discovery led to a lockdown at the facility.

Despite arrests, tainted food widespread in China

SHANGHAI—On a bustling corner near downtown Shanghai recently, some shoppers smelled the seasoned buns sold by Zhu Gonghe to be rancid, so they didn't buy. Instead, they bought the packaged buns in the frozen section of Hualian, a supermarket chain down the same building.

Big mistake: Zhu's buns were soft, tasty and fresh, made every time he said, as it's sold by supermarket's, on the other hand, came from a filthy workshop where workers "recycled" buns after their sell-by date. The workers merely threw the stale buns into a vat, added water and flour, kneaded and repackaged them to be sold once more.

It has been two years since China's government, reeling from nationwide outrage over melamine-contaminated baby milk that sickened 300,000 infants and killed at least six, declared food safety its No. 1 moral priority. Since then, it has threatened, jailed and arrested dozens of shady food processors—and even executed a couple.

But a stomach-turning string of food safety scandals this spring, from recycled buns to contaminated pork, makes it clear that official efforts are falling short. Despite efforts to create a trusted food culture, rogue processors, overtight regulations and hyphenated, in the hands of ill-trained, ill-equipped and sometimes bored enforcers whose quick fixes are ever more quickly undone.

"Most of them are working like bandit-hunters, having no clue what are the major food-borne diseases that need to be addressed or what are the major contaminants in the food process," said Dr. Jonathan Hanfrank, a food safety expert with the World Health Organization's Beijing office.

In recent weeks, China's news media has reported tales of pork adulterated with the drug clenbuterol, which can cause heart palpitations; pork sold as beef after it was soaked in borax, a deterrent; gelatin rice noodles mixed with cardboard, a heavy metal discharged by smelters; ammonium bicarbonate soy sauce; popcorn and mushrooms treated with fluorescent bleach; bean sprouts tainted with an animal antibiotic; and wine diluted with engine waste and chemicals.

Even eggs, seemingly unrecondite in their shells, have turned out not to be eggs at all but man-made concoctions of chemicals, gelatin and paraffin. Instructions can be purchased online, the Chinese media reported.

Symbolic are profiteering, in which businesses operate in a cutthroat environment in which illegal additives are everywhere and cost-effective. Manufacturers calculate correctly that the odds of profiting from unsafe practices far exceed the odds of getting caught, particularly say, Chinese consumers have ignored nearly half a million food producers, the authorities said, and from fifths of them employ 10 or fewer workers, making oversight difficult.

China's new political controls ensure that no powerful consumer lobby exists to agitate for reforms, press lawsuits that punish wayward producers or lobby the government to pay at much attention to consumer safety as it does to controlling threats to its own power. Instead, like fellow ailing through the rabbit hole, consumers must guess what their food and drink contain.

"Basically, people now feel nothing is safe to eat," said Jiang Limei, who directs the Beijing office of the Global Food Safety Partnership, a private agency. "They don't know what choices to make. They are really feeling quite helpless."

Chinese consumers may have their heads fed compared with their Western counterparts, but they are increasingly middle-class, well-educated and dismayed by their lack of protection from food officials are discarded.

"All of these many cases of food-safety problems are enough to show that lack of integrity and moral decline have become a very serious problem," Prime Minister Wen Jiabao told government officials, according to The People's Daily.

"We feel really ashamed," Vice Premier Wang Qishan said at a meeting in March with legislators, according to Xinhua, the official news agency. Not when the people have enough to feed them selves, we have this food-safety problem. Really embarrassing. Has to result in a major overhaul."

Some progress is evident. China adopted a far-reaching food-safety law in 2009 and is bringing hundreds of standards in line with international norms. Already, more than half of dairy food companies have been ordered to halt production after failing to meet new licensing requirements.

"The situation is steadily improving," said Luo Yenbin, the dean of the food sciences college at China Agricultural University in Beijing. "It is not as bad as people think it is."

Not it is good. The health minister, Chen Zhu, said in February that China did not have enough enforcement agents, with fewer than one for every 1,000 people, according to The People. Instead of systematically identifying the safety risks and forcing producers to prove that they have eliminated them, said Bei Embarek of the World Health Organization, Chinese inspectors follow a long-discredited strategy of randomly sampling and testing products.

Some food is simply unregulated. Pork accounts for two-thirds of the meat eaten by Chinese consumers, but only half of it goes through slaughterhouses that are subject to inspection, he said. The rest comes from pigs slaughtered in backyards, villages or markets and is essentially untested, he said.

Oversight remains elusive among disparate bureaucracies: the Commerce Ministry supervises pork slaughterhouses, but inspection of hog farms and poultry slaughterhouses fall under the Agriculture Ministry.

Even the government's most dramatic crackdowns have fallen on short. After the 2008 milk-powder scandal drove melamine-tainted milk products off store shelves, officials ordered all melamine-tainted dairy products to be destroyed. But they have turned up again and again. New York Times News Service

10 dead in Muslim-Christian clashes in Cairo

CAIRO—Mobs set two churches on fire in western Cairo during clashes between Muslims and Christians triggered by rumors of an interfaith romance that left 10 dead in some of the worst sectarian violence since the ouster of the president in a popular uprising.

Egypt's prime minister rounded his visit to the Gulf on Sunday, and called for an emergency Cabinet meeting to discuss the violence, according to the state-news agency.

Saturday night's clashes were sparked by rumors in the low-income neighborhood of Imbaba that a Christian woman married to a Muslim had been abducted and was being held in one of the churches against her will.

The report, which was never confirmed, spurred a mob from the ultraconservative Salafi strand of Islam to march on the Saint Mena Coptic Church. Christians attended themselves inside and around the church and the demonstrations incited violence. Gunfire exploded across the neighborhood, and witnesses said people on rooftops fired into the crowd.

Muslims accused Christians of starting the shooting, and large crowds instigated by the local Salafi religious leaders converged on the area. They hitched fire bombs at homes, shops and the church, setting it ablaze on fire.

AN UNIDENTIFIED man is comforted by a relative while being treated in hospital following Muslim-Christian clashes on May 8. AP

The crowd later attacked another nearby church, the Virgin Mary Church, and set it on fire in another part of the Imbaba neighborhood. The army and police tried to break up the crowd with tear gas, but failed to clear the streets for hours.

Residents stormed a six-story building near the Saint Mena Church, shooting it on fire, claiming the Christians used it to shoot at Muslims.

"They were shooting from the roof, and they killed Muslims," said 38-year-old Sabia Ramadan. "We won't stand idly by."

On Sunday morning, flames were still shooting out of windows, and breakers' area was strewn along the sidewalks.

The fires in the churches were eventually extinguished and the buildings were surrounded by the army. Residents say Christians were boiling inside.

The attackers chanted "With our blood and soul, we defend you Islam."

Egypt's state news agency said six Muslim and three Christians were killed. The body of one Christian was found outside the church. The religion of a 13th victim was not clear. Hisham Sheiha, a Health Ministry official, told the news agency that 186 were injured, including 15 in critical condition from gunshot wounds. AP

27 feared dead in plane crash in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Up to 27 people were believed to be dead after a passenger plane crashed into the sea in eastern Indonesia on Saturday, officials said, the latest in a long series of transportation accidents in the archipelago nation.

The Lilahone-made Xian MA60 propeller plane operated by Merpati Nusantara Airlines slammed into the sea with 21 passengers and six crew members aboard while trying to land amid rain and limited visibility in the remote province of West Papua in the afternoon, said Sunaryanto Riyan, a spokesman for the transportation ministry.

He said the plane crashed about 500 yards from the end of the runway. "Landing at the conditions there, we're not expecting any survivors," he said.

Rescuers, including local military units, that have been scouring nearby waters have been hampered by rough weather, said Suparno, the head of the National Search and Rescue Agency in neighboring Papua province. Six and 13 bodies had been found.

Ferry, train and plane accidents occur often in Indonesia, which sprawls across 17,000 islands. Poor maintenance, lax safety standards and corruption are blamed for many of them.

Merpati is among a slew of Indonesian airlines blacklisted by the European Union over safety concerns. It considers only six local airlines, including the national carrier, Garuda Indonesia, to be safe. New York Times News Service

Gadhafi forces attack fuel supply in city held by rebels

BRIQA, Libya—Military forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi struck the fuel terminal of this rebel-controlled city early Saturday with ground-to-ground rockets, igniting a fire that threatened the city's fuel supply.

The barrage struck shortly after midnight, when rockets began landing and exploding in several areas of the terminal, officials here said.

At least one rocket hit a set of three mammoth tanks, which ruptured and burst into a fireball. The fire settled into a leaping blaze that towered overhead, visible for miles. Its glow illuminated the eastern section of the city throughout the night. Residents woke to inhale drifting cloud of black smoke.

The attack on the terminal was another escalation against the besieged city and the second pinpoint attack by Gadhafi's forces in two nights.

Residents woke Friday to the news that Misrata's port, its only lifeline to the outside world, had been peppered with anti-tank land mines.

At the fuel terminal, a small contingent of firefighters worked throughout the night and the day trying to contain the fire, which had destroyed all three storage tanks in one section of the terminal, but had not spread.

"We want to protect the other tanks from exploding," said Abdha Hamed, one of the firefighters, after backing away from the containers' blackened remains for a break from the heat.

No one was wounded in the attack or the firefighting effort, officials said.

The tanks contained diesel fuel and gasoline—each roughly 6,000 cubic meters, or 1.5 million gallons—said Mufrah Bazina, the terminal's director.

The effect on the city's energy supply was not immediately apparent. Misrata has been cut off from new sources of fuel since the uprising against the Gadhafi government began in February, but it began the siege with large reservoirs of diesel fuel and gasoline, and so far there have not been shortages.

Several other fuel tanks remained intact, and terminal officials said the rebels' de facto government would not disclose which tanks were full and which were not, nor would they make any public statements about how much fuel remained in the city. New York Times News Service

Singapore loosens grip on Internet

SINGAPORE—The tightly controlled city-state of Singapore took a step into the unknown in advance of its parliamentary elections on Saturday, loosening its grip on political discourse in the unruly world of the Internet, where Facebook, Twitter and other social media have amplified a clamor of voices and points of view.

In a nation where government opponents are often sued over defamation and where carefully vetted public speech has been permitted only in a little park called Speakers' Corner (which has been shut down since 2008 for renovations), the new rules, which go into effect Monday, appear to be a redefinition of what are known here as "out-of-bounds markers."

Following recent changes to the Constitution and election laws, campaigning is now permitted throughout cyberspace—in podcasts, videos, blogs, Internet messaging, photo-sharing platforms like Flickr, social networking sites and electronic media applications like those found on cell phones.

But the first time campaign proceedings can be posted as long as they are not "disauthorized" or published "out of concern." Video taken at an election rally can be uploaded onto the Web without being submitted to the Board of Film Censors.

"Social media have lowered the barriers of entry into political discourse tremendously," said Mark Cenite, an assistant professor of communication and information at Nanyang Technological University. "But there's particularly significance in Singapore because here the barriers to entry are political discourse and the accompanying risks have been so high."

Despite the changes to Internet regulations, demonstrations and public speech still require permits. Political speech is restricted to candidates. Opposition politicians and the news media face the possibility of defamation suits. The mainstream media are tightly controlled, and have not acted as a check on the government, experts say. New York Times News Service

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ruivivar

Videos reveal Bin Laden's shrunken world

WASHINGTON—The world's most-wanted terrorist lived his last five years imprisoned behind the barbed wire and high walls of his home in Abbottabad, Pakistan, his days consumed by dark arts and domesticity.

US officials believe that Osama bin Laden spent many hours on the compound's orchard on the south side of the compound like the other men. The household, US officials figure, knew how important it was for him to devote his time to al-Qaida, the terrorist organization he founded and was still actively running at the time of his death.

US officials say their videos of bin Laden's compound and retrieved by the Obama administration's Situation Center, which is wrapped in an old blanket watching himself on TV, like arranging news imagining a comeback. A senior intelligence official said other videos show him practicing and fiddling his beard in front of a camera. He was in his second-floor bedroom, the official said, in civilian white beard black for the recordings.

His once-large entourage of male bodyguards was down to one trusted Pakistani courier and the courier's brother, who also had the job of buying goats, sheep and Coca-Cola for the household.

While his physical world had shrunk to two indoor rooms and daily pacing in his courtyard, bin Laden was still revered at home—by his three wives, by his children and by the right, in unsentenced circle of loyalists in the compound.

He did not do chores or tend to the cows and water buffalo

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Sweaty Summer means funny smells abound. Shower now and bring the fresh air in.
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Only Manny was ready for war

By Rap Laurea

LAS VEGAS—Manny Pacquiao was ready for war, but the old warrior Shane Mosley wasn't willing to engage.

This, according to Pacquiao's handlers, was the concept of their decoderont for the WBO welterweight crown Saturday night, with the highly favored Filipino superstar settling for a knockdown and a unanimous decision, instead of a knockout at the sold-out MGM Grand Garden Arena.

For a while there, Mosley was eating to do battle, as he had promised during training.

But after the Round 1 fall of Sweet left eye, thing of Pacquiao's punches—a left straight over the American down on all fours—Mosley reverted to retreat mode.

Though satisfied with the victory, Pacquiao said he was disappointed that Mosley failed to trade punches with him.

MANNY Pacquiao connects with a right to the head of Shane Mosley ...or more due to the wrong pay-per-view and closed-circuit sales.

In the end, Pacquiao justified the outcome that left many fans unsatisfied, showing their displeasure with re-

...ceived boxing.

"We tried our best," said Pacquiao, who thanked President Aquino for congratulating him for the victory. "We both gave it our best effort."

Pacquiao said he didn't want to attack relentlessly as Mosley is a noted counterpuncher. "He's fast and I had to be cautious of his counterpunch," he explained.

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TNT wraps up 2nd title in overtime

Castro, Alapag co-MVPs again

By Marvyn R. Carrillo

THE BALLGAME fell hanging on the rafters two eighty-ups finally fell, and now everyone, including the rest of the Philippine Basketball Association Bowl, can start talking Grand Slam.

Talk N Text answered the second jewel in a tangential sweep last night, fighting hard when packed in the final by a game Barangay Ginebra side before prevailing, 99-96, in overtime to clinch the Commissioner's Cup title before a boisterous Araneta Coliseum crowd.

The Texters scored eight points inside the final 2:2 minutes and 15 seconds, including free throws by Jimmy Alapag, as Talk N Text rallied from a couple-of-13 point deficits before closing out the Gin Kings, 9-2, in the best-of-seven series.

Alapag had won the game two overtimes with a left-handed layup, 88-all, and went on to clinch the Finals MVP again with teammate Jason Castro, as well as being named Best Player of the Conference.

It was a fitting ending to what had been billed as a lopsided series for the Texters, who had to escape past a Ginebra squad that played with much left heart and almost succeeded in taking the series to the full route.

Castro, the big difference for the Tropang Texters in the Philippine Cup series against San Miguel, also for a triple during that closing-spurt in extra time.

He finished with 19 points to equal his series high, while Alapag shot 24. Paul Harris scattered 16 markers like Reinhold de Chumpo to pace the Texters.

"Two down, two down," Texter shouted over the microphone in celebrating a second title in the Big Dome.

He was referring to the Texters' first spurt of matching the feats of Crispa, Shell and San Miguel as the only Grand Slam winners of the league.

"Obviously, more than we've won the second, there's only one jewel missing in the Triple Crown, and we're going to go for it," Pieper added.

Mark Caguioa had to choose to forge a second overtime for the Ginebras related his shot badly and, after the Texters won out in the scramble for the final possession, Byron Scott cop-a-to-the bench, head coach Manny Pangilinan, and team owner Manny Pangilinan, and rated his antics triumph.

It was after these when's Ginebra coach Jong Uichico offered his hand of congratulations to Pieper.

Willie Miller scored 21 points for the Kings and import Stan Brumfield scored 18 and pleaded down 22 rebounds before being carried off the floor because of cramps with still 2:11 left in overtime.

Ginebra enjoyed several 13-point leads, the first after a spur that bridged the first two periods, when Miller came off the bench to shoot eight points inside the final 5:10 of the opening frame.

The Texters trailed, 23-40, after just 5:00 of the second period when the Kings opened up the quarter with a 12-2 run when Miller also had a triple.

But the Texters came back with 14 consecutive points after Alapag made a triple, as Reds completed a three-point play and Castro converted on a one-foot point play off Miller.

Talk N Text also came back from a six-61 deficit early in the fourth period before eventually forging overtime after Alapag dived through the Ginebra defense for the tying layup.

The scores:

TALK N TEXT (99) – Alapag 24, Castro 19, Harris 16, Dela Cruz 13, Reyes 10, Ayaran 7, Ilagan 5, Ibanes 3, Pascual 2, Cabagnot 0.

GINEBRA (96) – Miller 21, Brumfield 18, Caguioa 17, Ahhon 12, Tubid 10, Ilagan 7, Ayaran 6, Ibanes 3, Pascual 2, Cabagnot 0.

Quarters: 23-40, 40-61, 61-81, 88-88, 99-96

COACH Chot Reyes (front) holds up two fingers as the victorious Tropang Texters clinched the second jewel of a championship Grand Slam.

Asian Cup: Petecio, Aparri bow to fancied foes

HARBOR, CHINA—Mostly Petecio and Alice Kate Aparri bowed in their highest medal 4-win in the 1st Asian Cup Women's boxing tournament here Saturday.

The 13-year-old Petecio lost to Asian champion Mavlet Batyrova, Chuma of Kazakhstan, 7-11, while Aparri succumbed to old rival Mary Kom of India, 8-11.

But the two also top tournament fourteen only the top four ranked Asian women boxers in every weight category.

Alapag executive director Ed Picson, who accompanied the two boxers along with coach Michel Martinez, expressed guarded optimism on the performance of the two top SEA Games contenders.

"This is their first exposure for the year and the luck of the draw had them matched up the top seeds right away," said Picson. "The fact that our girls gave them a tough time gives us lessons on what to work on."

Petecio, from Davao, landed clear blows in the final round but found it hard to overhaul the 7-4 lead her rival scored after the third.

Aparri also trailed all the way in her old rematch, a winner of four world championships, kept on scoring with counterpunches.

Gonzales bags First Gen plum

SECONDTIMER Carlos Gonzales Jr. captured his fifth title in the Wednesday Starlight Putters Golf Club Inc.'s 9-hole championship flight at the Manila Golf Club Saturday to capture the boys' 12-under crown in the First Gen Zeinland Metro Age Group tourney sponsored at the PGA course in Paco, Manila.

Third seed Adrian de Guzman overwhelmed Gonzales Sampaton, 2-0, 6-3, to retain the girls' 15-under title while Chloe Marie Hidalgo edged Ariel Rose, 6-4, 1-5, to bag the girls' 14-under title.

De Guzman broke Sampaton's lone win in the second to complete her four straight set victories that included a 1- 6-1 win over Isabelle Mendoza, and a masterful 6-0, 6-0 upset win over second seed Samantha Dayao in the semifinals.

Olongapo Mile BEST clinic starts

THE MILE Basketball Enhancement Skills Training (BEST) Center will host a free day summer basketball clinic starting today at the Gerongay New Asinan court on Gordon Avenue, Olongapo City.

The clinic, to be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, is open to kids nine years and older. Entry fee is P1,000.

Former Manila and San Sebastian College standout Francisco "Flash" Silverio and Arcanie Marmeg of Alamid School, both Mile BEST Center trainees, will coach the youth in the clinic.

For inquiries, call Rudell Navarro at 0917-3181382 or 0923-6826300.

Fitness First snags 4th straight Subic triathlon title

PETYXIE PRIOT Rudy Catalan ruled the team competition for the fourth straight year even as rising stars Benjamin Rana and Monica Torres emerged the fastest among Ole age groupers in the recent 13th TRIAthlon Subic Bay International Triathlon at the Subic Bay Freeport.

The team champions drew BOST, Fitness First stockpiled with a team made up this time of national coach Jose Bernie, Mark Alle, Andy Lendrim, Melvin Wong and Jonna Ella.

Fitness First posted a total clocking of nine hours, 56 minutes and four seconds to beat back the challenge of Bikers Cafe-Tri Club Davao's and Herbalife Team 1 in the race organized by Triathlon Association of the Philippines in cooperation with Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and government R. Subic.

Bikers Cafe-Tri Club Davao, made up of Jeanie Jaques, Arif Sakkes, Abe Tejing, Jenibo Tejing and Peter Tejing, clocked 10:40:43 to beat perennial podium finishes Herbalife Team 1 (10:50:29) for second place.

Rana, meanwhile, anchored his performance on the bus ran split of 36:45 to claim the gold medal in the 20-29 class in 2:15.36.

National swimmer coach George Uibeg finished second in 2:16.08, followed by August Sumodio in 12:36:451, Billy Bing (2:16:52) and Mark Anthony Hontiveros (2:16:52).

Torres rushed in on the anchor of two-time champion Sol Katrina De Leon to claim top female honors with a time of 2:32:02.

Ella (2:42:08), Jaques (2:43:30), Alcantara (Aland (2:45:44) and Michelle Tanjuan (2:48:56) rounded out the top five.

Other age group winners' times – Aaron Gomez (Herbalife Team 1, 2:16:58, 30-39 class); Jerry Bongcaras (2:26:08, 40-49 class); Jimmy Jones (45-49); Glen Alcantara (50-54); Mark Vitor (55-59); Yan Lumapenet (60-above); Jessie Ellen (29-49, Tec. Ex Equipo (40-above).

Steve Mina, Inquirer Bataan

From Ninoy to Noynoy:

25 Years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

From Ninoy to Noynoy: 25 years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer" charts the last 25 years of Philippine history through the pages, photos, editorials and events chronicled in the last quarter century's newspaper of record.

From the Cojuangco to the comic, and the many stories in between, the **Inquirer**'s 25th anniversary offering highlights the resilience and heroism of Filipinos through the swirling days of the Marcos dictatorship, the heady days of Edsa People Power I, the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions of the early 1990s to the second Edsa People Power at the turn of the century. It ends in bittersweet note, as the son of the woman whose husband's death sparked Edsa could give rise the country's 15th president.

Alongside the history of the "democratic project," the book is also the story of the **Inquirer**'s growth in those years, from a paper floundering in a post-red regime-era ring to a group of over a dozen publications with a presence on film, broadcast, online and mobile.

Books are available at the:
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MEMBERS of the dark horse National University women's basketball team with their chief backers—(front row, from left) Eric Cruz, Pat Aquino, team manager Mike Eo, Herbert Sy, Bro. Bilma Alan Diocaldo Sy, Haruan Sy, Hendrick Sy, coach Paul Zia and Johnson Martinez (center, second row)—during a recent team activity at SM Mall of Asia.

Lady Bulldogs on a mission

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY has embarked on a massive development program for its varsity squads, particularly in women's basketball, in a bid to make its UAAP hosting assignment next year a memorable one.

The Lady Bulldogs, still without a women's title, are out to challenge perennial finalists Adamson and Far Eastern University.

The mission appears difficult but coach Brad Uy and chief backers Herbert Sy of SM Group and Johnson Martinez of Pan Asian Diocaldo Sy are convinced their players have the talent to win the coveted crown.

A series of exhibition matches are lined up for the Lady Bulldogs, including four games Goodwill series in Taiwan.

The Lady Bulldogs, who finished fifth last year, will be bolstered by Daniela Morayosa, Valentine Alle, Mia Nicole Ramos, Jessilyn Lorenzo and Kristina Tolentino. The other members of the squad are Kristine Alejo, Ana Thea Casanova, Nina Naomi Mendoza, Elaine Moll, Melody Ortiz, Nelia Simmons and Flordeliz.

"Since most of my players are rookies, they need proper supervision, and I believe our trip to Taiwan will provide them the experience they need to get tougher," said Uy, who is focusing more on sharpening his coach' shooting and defensive skills.

'Bullang' finals at Big Dome up

THE FOUR-day tour-ranking finals of the MILE Bulang Bulang National Tournang Cento tees off this Thursday at the Araneta Coliseum.

The finals for qualifiers hitting 12 and 2-1 points get going on Thursday and Saturday in the derby backed by Thunderbird Interbev.

The three juniors compete in the two-building semifinals on May 17 and the two-building finals on May 19.

Jamel Aresmen, executive director of the National Federation of Luneberri Directors (NFGB), said they made many changes in the derby schedule due to the big number of entries.

At the close of the invitational at the Big Dome last Thursday, the three-day ballroom hit 1,397 entries. A total of 112 gamefowl breeders have identical 2-cock-two fights.

WTI derbies at Ynares Center

THREE COCKFIGHT derbies, originally scheduled at WTI Sports and Amusement Center in Makati, have been moved to the Ynares Center in Pasig.

The derbies are the May 7 Big Event 6-Cock Derby, the 7 Tradermodern of May 10 Special 4-Cock Derby of Senyor Gerong Gerong on May 14, and Grandpaw's 5-Cock Derby of Datung Bato Cruz on May 15.

Dino Cruz, a member of the Ynares Center-based National Cockers Alliance, thanked NCA president Bo Ynares for accommodating the derbies.

Pacman fight delays Palaro opening

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EASTERN CITY—Like the rest of the country, this weekend, laidback resort city elected still as Manny Pacquiao chased Shane Mosley before retaining his title by second-minute decision yesterday.

Organizers of this year's Palarong Pambansa decided to postpone the opening rites to mid-afternoon to allow almost 15,000 student-athletes and their teacher-coaches to watch the fight via live streaming on a huge video wall installed on the Jose Rizal Memorial Base University campus.

But just before the parade started at 1 p.m., torrential rains washed the athletes who had gathered up dressed in colorful uniforms along this city's largest roundabout.

"Please rains won't spoil the fun for us," said former Bing Homes Jakapin, chief organizer of the annual games.

"These are the fruits of our collective effort to stage this prestigious event and prove that we have what it takes to accomplish our goal to become the premier sports economic spot in the country."

He said everybody contributed to the endeavor, from the Cambanaags congressmen who donated part of their seventy-aside development fund, down to the schoolchildren who were each required to bring to class one square foot of carabao (grass) to cover the football pitch.

Delegations from 17 regions were ushered into the 9500-seat(ish) JMRSU sports complex by men clad in guerilla-suit uniforms mounted on horses and cosplay dressed as Jose Rizal and Josephine Bracken in desaturate this city's historical past. The games also celebrated Rizal's 114th birth anniversary.

Then the Mass hullaballoo and one-minute hella-quiet bracketed around the complex during the opening rite presided over by Vice President Ajiporar Binay who exhorted the athletes to emulate the world's top pound-for-pound boxer.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro also graced the event, which carried the theme "Hindering school sports" as homage to the city, which is also known as the "Shrine City of the Philippines."

Luistro also underscored the "Tuwid Palaro" policy which penalizes delegations caught littering the venues and their respective billeting areas.

Athletics plunge into action today with matches in ajar, sepak takraw, volleyball, basketball, softball and baseball.

Six gold medals are at stake in medal-tech track and field, while the swimming competitions begin tomorrow.

Murakami blows lead, settles for 2nd

MURAKAMI

ELISTO, Selangor, Malaysia—Ateneo's Murakami blew a three-shot lead with nine holes to play and settled for second place behind American rookie Jonathan Moore at the PGM-ACECEM Inspire Classic Sunday.

Murakami, preparing for his debut at the Asian Tour's ICTSI Philippine Open this week at Pinoh Hitch, scorched the front nine of the Impian Golf and Country Club course with a five-under 31 only to close his hands after driving out of bounds on the 18th for a double bogey.

The burly Filipino went even-Steph with a 69 and a 209 total, three strokes off Moore, who birdied three straight holes from No. 13 to card a 67.

"The momentum changed when I hit it out of bounds," said Murakami, who was a shot off the lead after three rounds. "From there, I couldn't get my rest down onto the fairways and I had tough second shots.

"But Jonathan played so good. I'm challenged as I usually need to shoot 5-under."

Moore, a former US Walker Cup team member, celebrated a first title in Asia which now made special as his wife Claire was cackling for him.

He won $11,666.67 for topping the third leg of the Asian Development Tour while Murakami, who tied for ninth last week, pocketed $7,000.67.

Yeesmin played phenomenal golf and 1-Uh kind of had seeing what happened to him," said Moore. "He played great."

Chinese Taipei's Chung Tze-peng finished third, four behind the winner, after a 68, while Malaysia's first Leong tied for fifth place on 274 alongside overnight leader Himmat Rai of India, who faded with a closing 76. Asian Tour News

Young Ko brods nail World 10-Ball berths

TWO-TIME world junior champion Ko Pin-yi and his 15-year-old brother Ko Pin-chang secured the last two tickets to the main draw of the World 10-Ball Championship which five-off tomorrow at the Pistol N' Rose Billiards Hall.

Pin-yi, the older of the two-time stars of Taiwan pool, repulsed a late charge by Filipino Rolmel dela Cruz to clinch the last seat, 9-8, Saturday night at the Star Billiards Center in Quezon City.

Pin-chang earlier downed 9-5 Ignino Marvin Tapia, 9-3, to cap Qualifier No. 9.

The Ko brothers were happy to play in the biggest tournament of the World Ten-8-Billiard Association for the year which offers $60,000 to the champion.

"Pin-yi is happy to join younger brother Pin-chang in the event because for himself this is something special for him," said interpreter Mars Chan.

Pin-yi, champion of the 2007 and 2008 World Junior Championship, will appear in his third WPBC event while Pin-chang, the youngest competitor in this year's tourney, will play in his biggest tournament for the first time in his career.

Jungolf's Faldo Series tees off at Tat Filipinas

LAWIGDIGS Celebrities gone for a second straight crown in the inaugural 23 class of the Bible Series Philippines Championships which starts today at the Tat Filipinas Golf Club in San Pedro, Laguna.

Celebrities heads 69 junior players vying for the titles in three different age groups for both boys and girls in a 54-hole qualifiers to pick the country's representatives in the Bible Series Bowl.

Also on tap in the tournament serving as a regular leg of the ICTSI-Jungolf Okinawa Circuit are events in the Under 18 and Under 16 divisions.

Also vying for slots are Miggy Tiu, Princess Superal and Mia Legaspi who all topped their respective divisions in the recent qualifying for the Junior World team in San Diego, California.

A clinic will also be conducted by Jack Tempotel, executive director of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

The jungolf circuit is also sponsored by Founder Home, Tenjuhi Boy, Stalling Pajero, Chevrolet, Pal, Phoenix, Gold Eagle, Starpass, Lowenbrau, Dole Pina, Coca-Cola, Sun Miguel Beer, Friends of Jungolf and 98.5 Crossfit.

Tigresses open defense of Asaphil Invit'l crown

UNIVERSITY OF Santo Tomas open its defense of its women's crown as the 5th Asaphil Summer Columbian International softball championship kicks off today at the Benguet Sports Complex in La Trinidad.

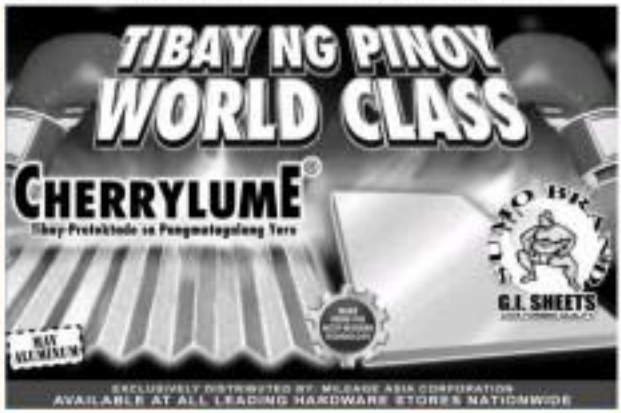
The defending champions take on Bukidnon State University in the fifth match of a 10-game schedule. University of Cordillera hurler UAAP champion Adamson University in the opener.

The men's side will start with the Cavite Philippine Navy All Stars-Duel against BiBeK.

Benguet Gov. Bonice Dangwa will deliver the inspirational message after the welcome remarks of Asaphil's Chairman Softball Association of the Philippines Joel Dizon.

Asaphil will be on the lookout for players with potentials to make it to the national teams.

"It's a great opportunity for local players to see action in this high-level competition," said Dizon.



SPORTS

CELTICS guard Rajon Rondo is low in the basket against Heat forward LeBron James, just minutes after dislocating his left elbow. REUTERS

Injured Rondo, Celts cut Heat lead to 2-1

BOSTON—Rajon Rondo overcame a dislocated left elbow to lead the Boston Celtics to a 97-83 win over Miami on Saturday which cut the Heat's lead to 2-1 in their Eastern Conference semifinal.

In the Western Conference, the Memphis Grizzlies fought back from 16 points down to beat Oklahoma City, 101-93, in overtime and take a 2-1 lead over the Thunder.

In Boston, the Celtics trailed by two points at halftime but started the third quarter with a 16-4 run to take control of the game. Rondo scored his first basket of the game during the run but then dislocated his left elbow after falling awkwardly to a tangle with Miami's Dwyane Wade.

After being helped from the court with his arm immobilized, Rondo returned to the fourth quarter and finished the game with 14 points and 11 assists.

"My adrenaline was too high. I fired off the crowd energy," Rondo told reporters, with the injured arm in a protective sleeve. "I thought I could try to change the game's momentum by getting in the ball defensively. I only need two legs for that.

"I'm glad we had it in a day off (on Sunday). I'll get a lot of treatment and hopefully I'll be ready to play." Rondo said of his chances of making Game Four on Monday.

Rondo's coach Doc Rivers was surprised to see the point guard return to the court after such a gruesome-looking injury.

"I still haven't seen it, I don't want to see it," Rivers said of the incident. "It helped me that I didn't see it, because I probably wouldn't put him back in the game."

Kevin Garnett was the Celtics scoring leader with 28 and 10 rebounds while Paul Pierce added 27 points.

Wade led the Heat with 23 points while LeBron James was limited to 15 points and Chris Bosh scored just one field goal among his six points.

"This is a championship team and they played at a championship level," Wade said of Boston. "We (will) come back Monday and try to leave from our comforts and see for them outplay us. For most of the game, they did a good job of outplaying us, and that can't happen."

In Memphis, the Grizzlies changed direction on the Thunder offense over the final 22 minutes, finishing them on 23 points while scoring 49 to claim the victory.

"We were fortunate to get this win, but that's the playoffs," said Grizzlies coach Lionel Hollins. "In order to go further, you always have to go somehow, somewhere in order to win the game. And I thought this was somewhere the way we fought back after being down 16."

Zach Randolph led the Grizzlies with 21 points and 21 rebounds. Reuters

Animal Kingdom stuns Derby field

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY—Animal Kingdom sped past the leaders in the turn at Churchill Downs on Saturday and charged down the middle of the stretch to win the Kentucky Derby giving his underdog jockey an unexpected victory.

JOHN Velazquez and Animal Kingdom wins the Derby.

John Velazquez picked up the reins after the 3-year-old colt's regular rider, Robby Albarado, broke his toes when he was thrown off his horse and kicked in the face earlier in the week.

"It's words that you can't describe," Velazquez said. "But I do really feel really bad for Robby. I know he got four or five kicks in the back of me."

For the last three years, Velazquez has come to Churchill Downs with a colt considered a leading contender, only to have it withdrawn. This year, he was supposed to ride Uncle Mo before the colt was scratched due to a stomach problem.

Animal Kingdom, a 20-1 long shot who had never raced on dirt before, zoomed to his outside after the race's champion should, galloping down the middle of the stretch to win by 2¼ lengths.

He covered the 1¼-mile race in 2:02.84, just off Secretariat's track record of 1:59.40 in 1973.

Rosie Napravnik was ninth aboard 8-1 second-choice Pants On Fire in her bid to become the first female jockey to win. AP

PACQUIAO-MOSLEY SPECIAL

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis E. Ochoa
Consultant Ernesto A. Gonzales
Designer Romina S. Aurora

Roach: Mosley fought to survive

By Bonnie Nadurata

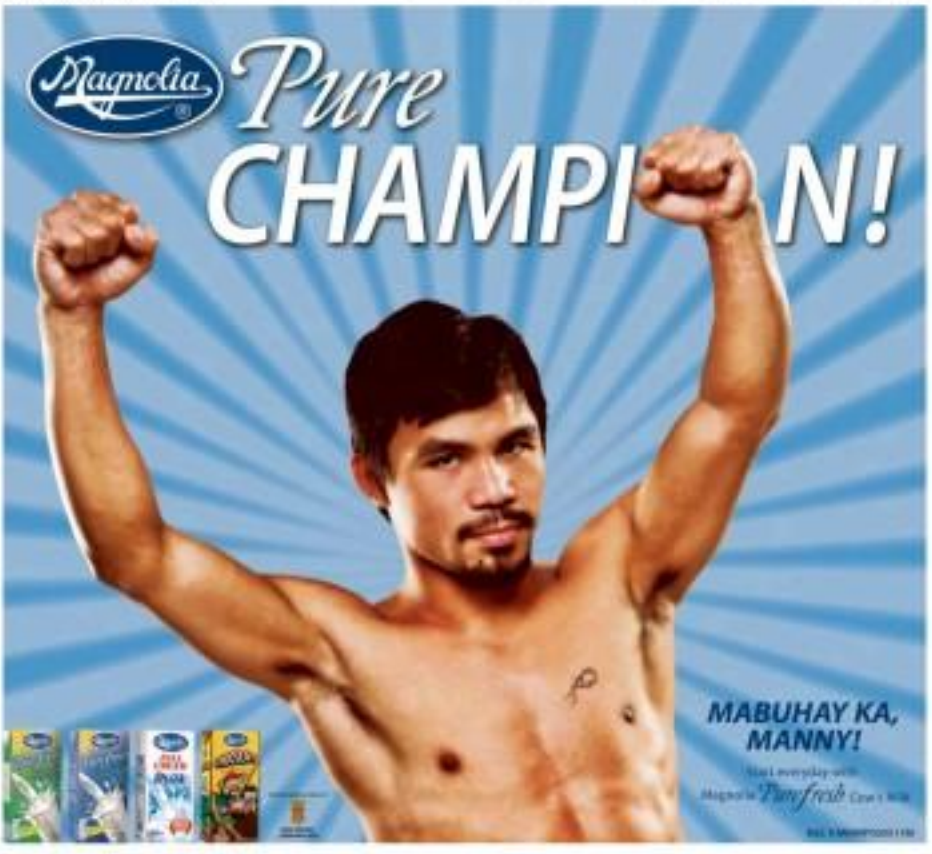
LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Pacquiao dropped Sugar Shane Mosley in the third round with a left hook, the look on Mosley's face showed he was stunned beyond belief.

This set the tone for the rest of the fight and what was hyped as a battle turned out to be a mismatch with the 33-year old Mosley refusing to engage Pacquiao in any form of combat.

"I don't think he (Mosley) tried to win the fight," said celebrated trainer Freddie Roach. "I think he just tried to survive and when you get to that point in boxing, I think it's time to QUIT."

Before the fight, Pacquiao told sweegirl KIKOY KO

Manny is pound-for-pound king, Shane concedes / A35



PAWKY! Pacquiao looks down at Shane Mosley who slipped during the fourth round as referee Kenny Bayless steps in to restrain the swooning Filipino.

Little mishap fails to spook the Pacman

LAS VEGAS—Manny Pacquiao was involved in a minor vehicle accident on Saturday but his management team said he was not injured and continued forward for the WBO welterweight title defense against Shane Mosley later in the day.

"Manny is ready to go," the Filipino southpaw's trainer Freddie Roach told reporters at the MGM Grand where the scheduled 12-round bout would be held Saturday evening.

According to Pacquiao's publicist, Fred Sternburg, the luxury van containing the celebrities (thus the sport utility vehicle he was driving) hit from behind when speed by one of his security vehicles.

Sternburg said the eight-time world champion was "a little shaken up" but not injured in the accident which took place on the Strip (presently Las Vegas Boulevard).

The 32-year-old Pacquiao, already acknowledged as one of the best offensive fighters of all time, entered the fight as 8-1 favorite to beat Mosley at the MGM Garden Arena.

Although Mosley is a former three-division world champion and holds a height and weight advantage over the Filipino, at the age of 39 the American is on the twilight of his impressive career.

Pacquiao, 52-3-2, 130 KOs), fought for the first time since he recorded a one-sided points victory over Mexican veteran Margarito in November for his eighth world title. Reuters

Roach: Mosley fought to survive

From page A23

and conditioning coach Alex Ariza. "If Mosley wants to give us two and come after me and try to knock me out in the first round, I'll get him out."

Besides his constant cursing which drew boos from the jampacked MGM Grand Garden Arena, a rare moment in a Pacquiao fight, Mosley was on several levels.

And although Pacquiao cleaned and tried to catch him in the last three rounds, the superiority and guile of the few African-American Pacquiao faced and the Filipino's own peculiar of self-esteem in fun, left leg helped save Mosley from being stopped.

Manny appeared to be slower than in his previous fights where his hand speed is estimated by sky-high to power against the much bigger and taller Antonio Margarito and the hard-hitting Miguel Cotto.

The blinding speed was absent and Arum asserted that Pacquiao, who wanted relentlessly for eight weeks, never smashing a day in the gym, had probably overtrained for the fight.

Secondly, Pacquiao versus a succession of six or seven months, which celebrated trainer Freddie Roach has always considered good enough for a fighter of Pacquiao's caliber.

There were times in training when both Arum and Roach had to try and hold him back but Pacquiao often had his way going an extra two rounds in sparring or on the punch mitts.

One other factor that worked against Pacquiao and helped Mosley was after sure first believed so he manage that slowed down Pacquiao as he chased the former three-time world champion.

Arum chuckled that "it wasn't enough. It was a stiffness in his left front calf," a condition which also hampered even in his first fight with Juan Manuel Marquez.

The strength and conditioning guru attributed the stiffness to "deterioration" and Arum blamed it on Manny's failure to take a rest. He pointed out that Pacquiao "ran on Thursday, just two days before the fight."

Arum was angry at one moment in which Mosley "got a card after he retired the power" of Manny when he dropped him in round three.

It was similar to the Joshua Clottey fight when Pacquiao beat the Ghana fighter with a serious body shot and his opponent crossed up and went into a turnout mode shell.

"Mosley didn't like to take any risks so take any chances," said Arum.

But to his credit, he survived the gruesome fighter of all time in Pacquiao and without ever protecting his record of never being knocked down and at least 85 million rules.

CONGRATULATIONS!

INQUIRER

MISSION: FIND GUYITO!

GUYITO WILD HUNT 2011

TEXT+COUPON PROMO

Winner of Montero Sport

Rose Pennie Ann Tan

Caloocan City

FIRST DRAW

Winners of P25,000.00 cash

Marilyn Capomanes
Las Piñas City

Jessica Garcia
Pangasinan

Eduardo P. Hermogenes
Tondo, Manila

Arlene Mecca
Quezon City

Normante Valite
Dasmariñas, Cavite

Winners of Suzuki Raider J Motorcycle

Abelardo Guieb
Ilocos Sur

Irving Torres
Batangas

SECOND DRAW

Winners of P25,000.00 cash

Shiryl Angcon
Cebu

Mark Anthony M. Arevalo
Valenzuela City

Ninfa V. Copioso
Laguna

Eduardo Delos Santos
Calabasa City

Diogenes Vivo
Muntinlupa City

Winners of Suzuki Thunder Motorcycle

Arnel T. Dominguez
Parañaque City

Francy Morales
Laguna

GRAND DRAW

Winners of P25,000.00 cash

Ma. Consuelo C. Calimutan
Cainta, Rizal

Luningning Guest
Muntinlupa City

Evelyn Paragas
Dagupan City

Tito F. Pontillo, Jr
Mindoro Oriental

Enrico Demesa Terrones
Pasay City

Winners of Suzuki Sky Drive Motorcycle

Gerardo Beloso
Paco, Manila

Vanessa Montejo
Pandacan, Manila

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0381 Series of 2011 - ABC Ref. Num PB22A0112111P

Manny is king, Shane concedes

By Roy Luarca

LAS VEGAS—There's no doubt in Shane Mosley's mind next that Manny Pacquiao is truly the pound-for-pound king.

He was thoroughly beaten by Pacquiao Saturday night and was lucky to finish still standing and his pride intact.

Mosley was quick to clear all the notion that his advancing age—39—was the reason behind one of his most lopsided defeats ever in a 51 year-long career that saw him emerge as four-time champion in three weight divisions.

He admitted that it was Pacquiao's power that took the fight out of him.

"You can see Manny age," said Mosley. "Manny is an exceptional fighter. He truly is the pound-for-pound king. It was power more than the speed."

Mosley, who has never been knocked out, said he was "pretty hurt" when Pacquiao nailed him with a left hook in the third round.

"Unquestionably, the impact was very strong," said Mosley.

But now, however, Mosley charge all talk for his retirement.

"We'll see what happens," said the American icon who intended to go on vacation, relax and enjoy the rewards of his 11-round rivalry with Pacquiao.

Mosley is guaranteed $1 million and stands to earn some more from pay-per-view and closed-circuit sales.

According to Mosley, he saw some positives to explore against Pacquiao.

Aware of Pacquiao's knacks of punches that come in all angles, however, Mosley failed.

In the end, the man who has never been knocked out in his career remained standing as the final bell sealed the fight.

REFEREE Kenny Bayless leaves the corner as Shane Mosley who was knocked down in the third round.

Arce stops Vasquez, captures WBO crown

By Roy Luarca

LAS VEGAS—Talk about courage and composure until it comes to mind.

Way behind on points, the gritted Mexican warrior summoned the last ounce of his fading strength to stop Panito Ricar Williado Vasquez and capture the WBO super bantamweight crown at the MGM Grand Arena here last night.

The 32 year-old Arce was relentlessly pummeling Vasquez on the ropes when the Puerto Rican's corner threw in a plastic mineral bottle at the center of the ring as a sign of surrender, 55 seconds before the final bell.

Vasquez dominated Arce up to 11th round, since making his win-less-than record to 37-0-2 with 43 knockouts, while Vasquez suffered his first loss and is now 30-1-1, with 17 KOs.

It was a painful ending for Vasquez, best remembered for knocking on former world champion Filipino Manny Pacquiao in the fourth round in Puerto Rico two years ago.

Vasquez knocked down Arce with a left cross to the jaw in the fourth round and was to control throughout the earlier rounds.

"I was embarrassed by that knockdown," said Arce, who also reigned as the light fly-weight and flyweight champ.

Arce had never been dropped by a single punch in his colorful career.

Arce passed the admit right in the first round, but Vasquez was there with his fists and quicker on his feet, finally knocking down Arce, who was saved by the bell, in the fourth.

The two continued to trade blows in the succeeding rounds with Vasquez getting the better of the exchange with Arce landing a blow as the bell sounded. Arce continued to stalk Vasquez and finally nailed the Puerto Rican with a long left. It was all Arce needed as he battered Vasquez with a barrage of punches.

At the start of the 12th round, the protagonists continued. Then Arce went in work and never stopped pounding until he got the win.

Samsung Notebook Series 9:
In Perspective*

Following the success of its grand fashion style launch, Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation (SEPCO) signed up three home design experts to interpret the new characteristics of the Samsung Notebook Series 9 – the thinnest, lightest and brightest notebook by Samsung. Samsung's 9H PERSPECTIVE was truly inspired as three of the country's top home and lifestyle magazines, Metro Home, My Home and Real Living Magazine fantastically narrated the Samsung Notebook Series 9 features into a unique and bold home design exhibit held at the Powerplant Mall, Rockwell, Makati City.

Metro Home interprets the Samsung Series 9's THINNEST feature as a collection of environmentally unique furniture and not in their typical negative way. According to Metro Home-editor-in-chief Carlo Tarlac "A homeowner believes that the important ingredients are in the materials. Elegance is not necessarily the result of costly but is more the creation of wanting only the essentials."

Taking to heart the Samsung Series 9's LIGHTEST characteristic, My Home Magazine fashioned a light and breezy living space, all epitome of rest and relaxation. Electrically tell as light as My Home Magazine wanted the feelings of convenience and comfort to be present in their design. According to Ms. Pamela Lee Pernito, editor-in-chief of My Home "The feeling is anything but heavy, while surfaces shine and glow as light bounce and create reflections of light. Lightweight."

Real Living Magazine interpreted the Samsung Series 9's aspect of being the BRIGHTEST in three ways – light, interior, and color. Real Living Magazine created a beautiful and efficient living space. "The luxurious pieces found in this small area also serve as stereos, including the sleek Samsung Notebook which served as a light source. With many reading nooks are being? Style plus function make a small reading corner truly a bright idea," added Rachelle Medina, editor-in-chief Real Living. "Expect only the best. At Samsung, takes your laptop experience to an even greater level with truly comprehensive mobile experiences and the best in display, offering our customers a complete and comprehensive notebook that meets all of their needs with one premium device with the Samsung Notebook Series 9," said Hannah Francisco Samsung NPC Product Manager.

The Samsung Series 9 Notebook is the world's THINNEST measuring only 16.9mm (0.66 inches) at its thickest point, and with a screen size of 13 inches, the world's LIGHTEST with a weight of only 1.31kg (2.88lbs.), and the world's BRIGHTEST – using only Samsung's LED Technology's SuperBright Plus display calibrated with 16 million color reproduction 50% brighter than other notebooks, all encased in the most advanced aluminum metal alloy only used in special aircrafts, making it durable yet stylish and ultra light. The Samsung Notebook Series 9 is available in Pearl, Red with a three-year warranty (1+ months 3% interest on all major credit cards).

Samsung executives Ivan Enrique Sison, Hannah Francisco and Eric Solit together with My Home Style Editor Michelle Manuel and Metro Home Managing Editor Ruthy Palacios

MIGHT home design by Real Living Magazine for the Samsung Notebook Series 9

LIGHT home design by My Home Magazine for the Samsung Notebook Series 9

Lifestyle Editor (Metro Home Ed), Cathy Rubio-Guevarra (Metro Home Brand Manager), Ruthy Palacios (Metro Home Managing Editor), Philip Co Unjieng (Metro Home Sales Head)

Mega Publishing Group Account Executive, Hector Nicolas and Leigh Florido, My Home Style Editor Michelle Manuel and All Marilyn de Mesa

SPORTS

Pacman 'killer instinct' missing

By Ray Luarca

LAS VEGAS—Is Manny Pacquiao losing his killer instinct?

Or, did the champ in his left leg really dazzed him down in his successful defense of the WBO welterweight crown Saturday night?

Pacquiao threw just 332 punches at Shane Mosley—the fastest volume in his last four fights—and landed 34.6% (115) connection rate of 33 percent.

Mosley fared worse, unloading just 260 and connecting 92 for a 35.3 percent rate.

This was the reason why Pacquiao's fan was hardly marked after 12 rounds.

In contrast, Mosley had to wear dark shades during the postfight press conference, an indication that there's swelling in his eyes.

Having a shorter wingspan (by 3 1/2 inches) it was but natural for Pacquiao to take with his jabs, landing only 46 of 208 that he unloaded, or 17.9 percent.

His power shots were accurate, however, with 150 of 284 punches hitting Mosley on the head and the body for 47.2 percent, or a conversion rate of nearly one of two.

That the usually offensive-minded Mosley went on defensive mode can be gleaned from the fact that the Forum Hall of Famer only threw 199 jabs, connecting on 51 for an accuracy rate of 25.6 percent.

With his 5-6 inch reach, Mosley was able to land more than half of his power shots (31 of 61 for 50.8 percent), but the minimal number hardly took its toll on Pacquiao, who unloaded more than 1,000 punches in his last two fights against Joshua Clottey (1,251) and Antonio Margarito (1,069) last year.

Even in his 2009 battle against Cotto, whom he stopped in the 12th round, Pacquiao was busier with 780 punches thrown.

Celebrated trainer Freddie Roach said Pacquiao tends to be overconfident and he knew that his opponents are ripe for the kill.

HAMMY Pacquiao lands a right straight on Shane Mosley's face. Pacquiao threw just 332 punches at Shane Mosley and landed only 182. —AP

Fighting the Filipino superhero is dangerous to health

By Ray Luarca

LAS VEGAS—Fighting Manny Pacquiao maybe worth a lot of money, but it is a risky undertaking.

It's dangerous to health, pundits say. Look at what happened to his previous foes, Shane Mosley included.

There's either semi-retired, injured, or retired.

Consider:

✦ David Diaz, whom Pacquiao knocked out, is semi-retired.

✦Ricky Hatton, whom the Filipino superstar brutally knocked out in the second round, is retired with weight and alcohol problems on the side.

✦ Oscar De La Hoya, whom the fighting congressman made to quit on his stool in the eighth round, is retired.

✦ Joshua Clottey, whom he turned into a punching bag, is injured and has yet to fight again.

✦ Antonio Margarito, who lasted the distance, but ate so gut a cleanness to fight due to an eye injury he sustained against Pacquiao last November.

Only Miguel Cotto, whom he stopped in the 12th round, remains active and is currently holding court in the 154-pound division.

As to Mosley, the jury is still out.

Some quarters, including celebrated trainer Freddie Roach, suggest he should hang up his gloves.

His legacy is secured as a four-time champion in three weight divisions and he's a sure bet to enter the Hall of Fame. And he's got $5 million and change to earn more chow.

FILIPINO Rodel Mayol (left) exchanges punches with Mexican Javier Gallo in the fourth round of their flyweight bout. —

Mayol gets back on track, defeats Gallo

By Ray Luarca

LAS VEGAS—Rodel Mayol showed flashes of his old brilliance in beating Mexican Javier Gallo by majority decision in the non-televised undercard of the Manny Pacquiao-Shane Mosley showdown here Saturday.

The former World Boxing Council light flyweight champion dominated most of the rounds and got the nod of judges Judy Boffi and Lisa Giampa, who had similar 98-92 scores.

Third judge G2 Ron had it a 95-95 draw.

With his second straight win in the flyweight division, Mayol improved to 20-5-2 with 13 knockouts.

In his first fight in the 112-lb class, Mayol posted a seventh round stoppage of Pennsylvania Twin Cipa last November at the Tropics Gym in Pasig City.

Gallo, from Tijuana, dropped to 17-4-1 with nine knockouts.

With his snappy jabs, Mayol controlled rounds clad in 49th, where he forced Gallo to backpedal with a left hook to the face.

Both teams swore to try out a bit in the ninth as they repeatedly clung to each other.

Mayol, who was an inch taller at 5 feet 4, landed a hard left that shook Gallo early in the 10th, but the Mexican quickly recovered to last the distance.

Sidney Fernandez and Nonoy Sisi, Pacquiao's Filipino trainers, watched the corner of Mayol, who in turn based in Los Angeles.

Freddie Roach is the designated trainer of Mayol, who took the WBC title from Edgar Sosa via a second round technical knockout in 2009, but later yielded it to Omar Nino Romero by unanimous decision in Mexico.

At 29, Mayol feels he can still earn another crack at a world title.

PACQUIAO-MOSLEY SPECIAL

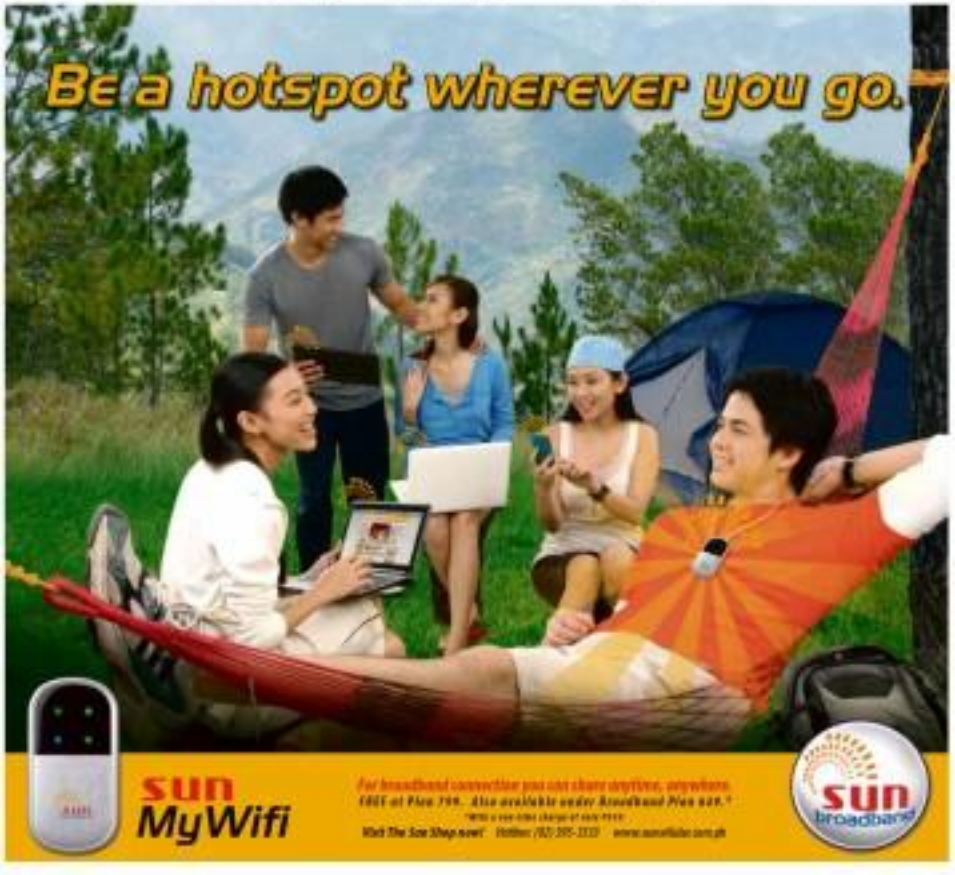
SPORTS

Arum: Manny will beat up Mayweather

Story on A38

JuanMa longs to fight Pacman A40

Roach to coach Olympic squad A40



HAWAII' Pacquiao heads for the neutral corner after flooring Shane Mosley with a left hook in the third round of their fight in Las Vegas. Pacquiao went on to pound a comprehensive unanimous decision win.

'Manny will beat up Floyd Jr.'

Promoter Arum taunts undefeated but fight-shy American

By Roy Luarte

LAS VEGAS—After watching Manny Pacquiao dominate Shane Mosley comprehensively Saturday night, promoter Bob Arum declared that the pound-for-pound king is far better than the one who last held the honor—Floyd Mayweather Jr.

"He would beat the crap out of Floyd," Arum said during the post-fight press conference. "I guarantee."

The 79-year-old Hall-of-Famer said that, as a student of boxing, Mayweather knows it but fact.

That's why he's been avoiding a much-awaited fight against The Fighter of the Decade, Arum said.

"He knows it," added Arum. "If he has any desire to fight he wouldn't call and tell us."

Though Mayweather also dominated Mosley when they collided early last year, Mosley was able to rock Mayweather in the second round.

Mosley didn't even come close to wobbling Pacquiao. Instead, it was Mosley who fell in the third round and barely survived.

Arum explained that he sees nothing wrong that Pacquiao has not been able to knock out his last three opponents.

According to Arum, Pacquiao is no good that he's taking his opponents out of their normal fight routines.

"You gotta understand that Pacquiao is a phenomenon. I've never seen a greater fighter in my 41 years in boxing."

With Pacquiao showing improvement at every fight, Arum said there's probably no one in his weight (147) division that could beat him right now.

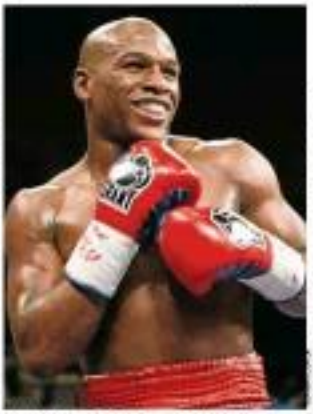
Asked about a possible fight pitting Pacquiao against middleweight king Sergio Martinez, Arum hesitated a bit.

Though he believes that Pacquiao will be able to handle Martinez, Arum said it would take a great roll on his favorite fighter.

Arum said those probably will be a 27-pound weight difference if the two collide and he doesn't want to touch.

The guys Arum are looking at are old veterans Juan Manuel Marquez, Timothy Bradley and Zab Judah.

According to Arum, Pacquiao could have anybody and it's going to make money because "he (Pacquiao) is always the aggressor" and is an interesting fighter.



HAYWEATHER watched Lady Gaga on HBO at his Las Vegas home.

Lady Gaga interests Mayweather more

LAS VEGAS — Floyd Mayweather Jr. delivered a fight night taunt to Manny Pacquiao by claiming he would tune in to a Lady Gaga concert instead of watching the Filipino icon's easy victory over Shane Mosley.

While Pacquiao was cruising to a comfortable points victory at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in a bloodless pay-per-view telecast Saturday, Mayweather was in his Las Vegas home watching Lady Gaga on rival network HBO — and urging his fans to do the same.

"Everyone watch Lady Gaga tonight on the best sex movie in the world, HBO," Mayweather said on his Twitter account.

Only Mayweather and his family know if he really did watch the music special from Madison Square Garden instead of the showdown in the ring in a few miles from his home. Yet either way, his apparent antipathy to Pacquiao's win appears to suggest that a superfight between the pair — a bout that all boxing fans crave more than any other — is further away than ever.

Attempts to set up a Pacquiao-Mayweather fight collapsed in January 2010, with the primary sticking point being Mayweather's insistence on Olympic-style drug testing. Talks were set up again in July, but fell through once more, with Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum and Mayweather's representatives at loggerheads from the first failing to reach common ground.

GAB, Immigration threats to World 10-Ball tourney

THE GAMES and Amusements Board and the Bureau of Immigration should be held jointly responsible if the scheduled World 10-Ball Championships set to open on Tuesday is cancelled.

In a cheap effort to try and make some money in a sport where Filipinos have remained dominant since the days of Lone Nanang "Daraa and Efren "Bata" Reyes, the GAB and the BI sought to outspot 128 foreign players competing in one of the most prestigious events in the annual pool calendar to receive work permits and licenses.

Nowhere in the world do countries require sports competitors to obtain a work permit or to secure a license and, for both requirements, pay fees. What is worse is that the two government agencies threatened to cancel the five-day event at the World Trade Center should the foreign players refuse, in the past competed in several similar events in the country, refuse to comply.

Our country and millions of pool fans around the world will be the losers. The Philippines will lose income from the many fans and tourists who normally fly in to watch these tournaments as well as from the players who stay in our hotels for the duration of the tournament.

The international television coverage and media attention will also reinforce Manila's acknowledged position as the epicenter of pool. Perhaps any government officials haven't heard of sports tourism rebuilt as a major international pool event as ours, this is arguably considered the obviously different manner between work and play. Besides, the pool players are unlike 1960 imports for instance who enjoy fixed salaries for a guaranteed period of time and earn whether they win or lose.

Billiards is different. Players only earn should they finish in the top rankings. Which means there is no guarantee of income.

They are certainly unlike some of the reported hostesses or "tali girls" who somehow are able to enter the country and ply their trade without any hassle from the BI.

Rays Sports CEO and journalist Sta Makalawsa put it succinctly when he said "this is a violation of our right to pursue our game of choice."

If this is the case then what about the numbers flown in to compete in the various big international derbies at the Araneta Coliseum. Do they too have to be licensed and secure work permits?

If this ridiculous effort by the BI and GAB pushes through, then, using the same yardstick, the Indonesians who will host the forthcoming Southeast Asian Games could require the pool players and competitors in other sports to secure work permits and pay license fees to the Indonesian government.

This attitude of the BI and GAB is typical of the myopic thinking of these agencies which perhaps need to reevaluate their outlets for the source rather than squeeze they more.

For instance GAB officials were in Las Vegas for the Manny Pacquiao-Shane Mosley fight at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Sunday when there was absolutely no reason for them to be there because Congressman Pacquiao is perfectly capable of taking care of business in the ring as well as outside.

We are confident President Noynoy Aquino will take the axe and prevent this farcical effort by the BI and the GAB which is bound to make the Philippines the laughing stock of the sporting world.

INSIDE SPORTS

Ronnie Nathanielsz

PACQUIAO jars Shane Mosley with a right in the seventh round of their fight in Las Vegas.

FIGHT IMPRINT

Almost a replay of Clottey clash

By Ray Lucas

LAS VEGAS—For a long time there, renowned trainer Freddie Roach thought he was watching a replay of the Manny Pacquiao-Andrus Clottey fast-year.

There was Pacquiao on the attack and there was Shane Mosley back-pedalling almost throughout their 12-round fight at the MGM Grand Arena.

After Mosley felt the power behind Pacquiao's punches, the American dared not mount any charge.

To the dismay of Pacquiao and the displeasure of the fans who expected a no-holds-barred exchanges between the two.

The same thing happened to Clottey when he coupled with Pacquiao at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, last year.

After absorbing Pacquiao's booming punches, Clottey chose to hide behind a shell like defense throughout.

Roach said the intention of Mosley was the same as Clottey.

"I don't think [Mosley] tried to take the fight. He just tried to survive."

The unanimous decision was acceptable, because, according to Roach, only one guy (Pacquiao) was trying to win.

How much wished Pacquiao got angry earlier.

When referee Kenny Bayless declared a blatley pack as a knockdown in the 10th round, Pacquiao cursed Clottey.

"Manny got a little upset with the guy (Bayless) calling it a knockdown and Shane getting more aggressive. I wish he did that sooner," Roach said.

Roach knows that when you light up Pacquiao's fuse, it will explode. And Mosley would have felt his full wrath.

But Manny couldn't pin down the elusive Mosley with a devastating blow and the American went on to preserve his reputation as a knockout-escape artist.

JOSHUA Clottey covers up under Pacquiao's assault in March 2010.

Holyfield on comeback trail, TKOs Dane in 10th

COPENHAGEN, Denmark—Former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield beat Denmark's Dalas Shirkou on a technical knockout in the 10th round on Saturday in his long-shot quest for one last title fight.

The bout was stopped after the 48-year-old Holyfield pushed Shirkou into the corner in the 10th round and hit him several times with right-left combinations, causing the latter to spit out some blood.

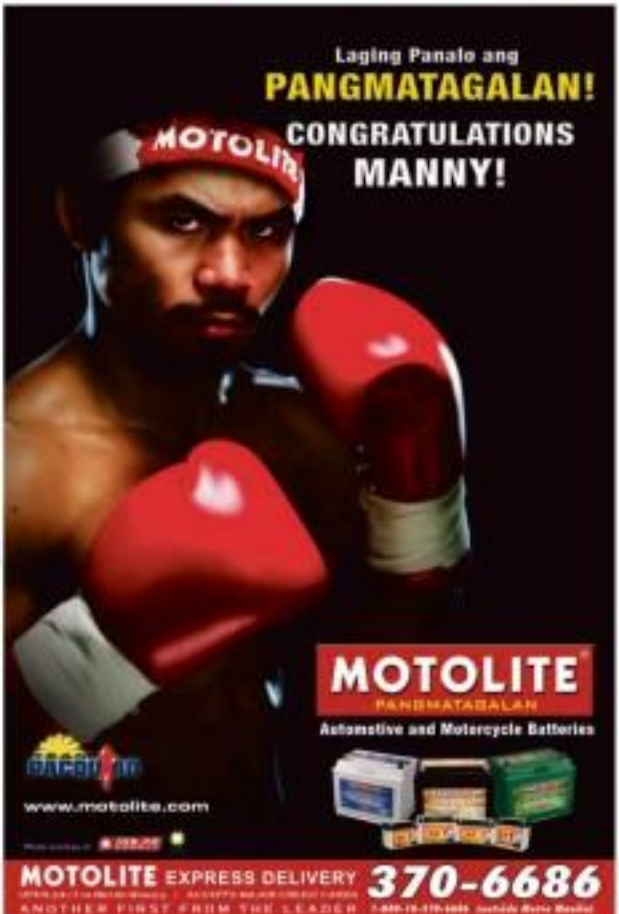
Holyfield said after the fight that his hope is still to regain the world heavyweight title.

"The fight showed other champions what I am able to do, but it also taught me I got to be better," said Holyfield, who has held the world title four times in his career.

"The most important is that I didn't quit," he added. "I am not a quitter."

Holyfield (44-10-2-1) started the fight aggressively, pressing the 30-year-old Shirkou into the ropes and landing several hard jabs and hooks. Shirkou got a swollen eye in the fourth round and couldn't see properly.

Holyfield weighed in at 215.97 pounds (110.6 kilograms), while Shirkou, a tall, pudgy fighter, was at 256.1. AP



SPORTS

Marquez longs for a 3rd crack

Roach says JuanMa ideal next opponent for Manny

By Ray Lustre

LAS VEGAS—Juan Manuel Marquez was a keen observer at ringside when Manny Pacquiao overwhelmed Shane Mosley Saturday night.

MARQUEZ

The WBA and WBO lightweight champion heads the cast of those being lined up to face Pacquiao next.

The 37-year-old Marquez, who gave Pacquiao cuts of his toughest fights when the Filipino boxer was still just jumping to higher weight classes, said: "I like to fight Manny."

This despite seeing Pacquiao send Mosley, who's at least 15 pounds heavier, to the canvas in the third round.

Manny Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach also felt that Marquez was the ideal opponent for his fighter.

Too great fights

"They have history and those were two great fights," Roach told Reuters.

"I hate it when he (Marquez) says that he was robbed because there was no robbery in either fight. They were very close fights and could have gone either way. So I would love to fight him one more time just to shut him up, I really would.

"If (Floyd) Mayweather doesn't come to the table, I think (Marquez) is going to be our next opponent because we are running out of opponents. He is athletic. The Mexicans market it huge in boxing and they would love to see that fight one more time."

Marquez admitted in Filipino sportswriters that there's a pending offer from Top Rank of \$6 million for him to stage a rubbout with Pacquiao in November in Las Vegas.

According to the Mexican great, he's studying the proposal and will forward the revised one by Top Rank on Monday.

But first, Marquez has to consider whether his promising son, Golden Boy Promotions, would match Top Rank's offer, which is reportedly \$5 million, which is the same as Mosley's purse.

If GBP does match the offer, Top Rank can do nothing but look for another fight or to pit against Pacquiao, who's now regarded as the cash cow of boxing.

There are so many fighters desiring to couple with the eight-division champion for the simple reason that it would give them the biggest purse.

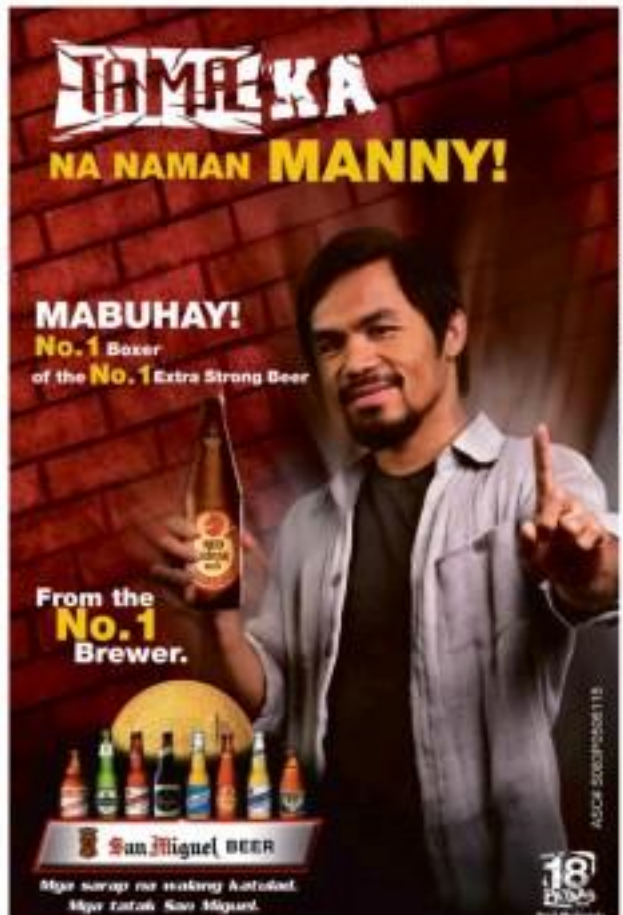
Marquez held Pacquiao to a draw despite getting knocked down three times in the first round in their first meeting before losing by split decision in the second.

While Marquez gets Roach's vote as Pacquiao's next opponent, the skinned trainer said the Mexican, a natural lightweight, would have to come up in weight. "We're just going to have to come up to 147 (pounds) and I think that's the weight he is. It's bit too small for that weight," Roach said.

"He might want to fight at a welterweight or something like that. But that's weight class is 147 right now and that is what we are going to fight at."

With a report from Reuters

A GLAZED-EYED Shane Mosley lays on the mat after being knocked down by Manny Pacquiao in the third round.



Pacman-Mosley boosts Las Vegas coffers by $200M

By Ray Lustre

LAS VEGAS—When Manny Pacquiao fights in this densest entertainment and gambling mecca, the mean lights turn even brighter and the casinos get busier.

This was evident with the influx of local and foreign tourists here starting Friday.

The light hotel's sellout crowd of 16,412 at the MGM Grand Arena, over 10,000 closed-circuit tickets were sold, and hundreds of Filipinos and Asians flew in to support Chest here.

Many Pacquiao supporters are high rollers, who'll be trying their luck at the gaming tables of the major hotels at the Strip.

In an interview with the Las Vegas Sun, light promoter Bob Arum estimates that Pacquiao-Mosley will boost the city's coffers by at least \$200 million (\$8.6 billion) or as much as \$300 million (\$12.9 billion).

The figures were based on the fully booked hotels, the brisk sales at the stores and, of course, the rise in the number of casino patrons.

Pacquiao's followers and diehard fans have also grown by leaps and bounds since 2000, when he beat Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto by stoppage in the 12th round.

That time, the casinos poured a four percent increase in sales, the first time in 18 months with the United States at the height of recession.

Now that Pacquiao has turned into a crossover star and global endorser, the impact of the fight to the city's economy should be substantial.

Freddie to coach US boxers in Olympics

By Ray Lustre

LAS VEGAS—Freddie Roach will lead his training expertise and his Wild Card Gym to the US Olympic boxing team in the 2012 London Olympics.

Already inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame, Roach is known worldwide as chief trainer of pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao.

The 53-year-old Roach has also been honored as Trainer of the Year a record five times by the Boxing Writers Association of America and is also an inductee into the New England Boxing Hall of Fame and the California Boxing Hall of Fame.

Roach's appointment was announced by United States Olympic Committee CEO Scott Blackmun, who, in a statement, lauded Roach and his team "for their willingness to help our boxers achieve their highest potential."

A former amateur and professional boxer himself, Roach has been in the corner of 17 world champions, headed by Pacquiao and World Boxing Association light welterweight champion Amir Khan of England.

"An Olympic medal is one of the greatest accomplishments in all of sport, and I promise to do all I can to ensure that these young men and women are fully prepared to go to London to proudly represent our country," Roach said.

He also expressed his gratitude to USA Boxing and the USOC for the opportunity to help develop the country's future ring stars.

"This partnership is an exciting new chapter in my career and I can't wait to get it started," said Roach, who'll also be working with female prospects as women's boxing will make its debut in London.

Under the partnership agreement, the national boxers, together with their personal coaches and USA Boxing's head coach for London will do their training sessions at Wild Card, with Roach calling the shots.

BUSINESS

Editor Raul D. Morales • Assistant Editor Cecile S. Mariano

PH airlines press reciprocity in 'open skies'

Gov't should protect rights of local firms

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LOCAL AIRLINES have criticized the government's "open skies" policy, saying the disregard for reciprocity from other countries may jeopardize the growth of Philippine carriers.

The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) last week approved the first implementing rules of Executive Order No. 29—signed by President Aquino in March—which removed legal restrictions on the number of flights foreign airlines could operate to local cities outside Manila.

The government is hoping that the more liberalized rules would open other grounds of the country's tourism sector—considered a pillar of the administration's economic platform.

Budget carrier Cebu Pacific said in a statement issued on Friday that it was "disappointed" that the government did not heed its calls for rights given to foreign airlines to come with the condition that the same rights be granted to local carriers by other countries.

"We have expressed our concerns on reciprocity rights from the start. Regrettably, none of our proposed amendments that would have produced fair competition and mandated reciprocity into the implementing rules and regulations were considered," Cebu Pac said.

In the final rules, under normal circumstances, the CAB will require that any air rights given to foreign airlines should also be given

PH AIRLINES /B2

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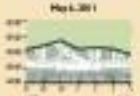
- **PH bond yields** seen to stay low /B4
- **Biz Buzz:** Book running and front running? /B7

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

43.080

May 6, 2011



STOCK MARKET

May 6, 2011

29.61

Data from market report on Page B2

Profit-taking seen to continue

THE RELEASE of local corporate earnings for the first quarter will be the biggest influence to market movements this week, although profit-taking may persist.

Share prices fell for four consecutive days last week, bringing the benchmark

PROFIT /B2

Profit-taking seen

From page B1

Philippine Stock Exchange index to a low of 4,173.61 before closing at 4,219.07 points on Friday.

The drop was driven by the announcement that local inflation rose higher than government expectations last April. This spurred foreign selling later in the week as the central bank raised key interest rates by 25 basis points—its second rate adjustment since the start of the year.

In its weekly report, online brokerage firm AB Capital Online said "the selling seen last week can persist in the coming week as investors take profit."

The company said local developments that could move the market this week were the release of economic data and company-specific reports like first-quarter earnings.

"Foreign developments will mainly come from the US and will center on the health of its economy," the firm said.

Companies that are set to disclose their first quarter figures include Manila Water, Globe, ABS-CBN, PLDT, Ayala, Ayala Land, Metro Pacific, and San Miguel.

"What these companies disclose will move the market as they are mostly index issues," it added. Paolo G. Montecillo

Meralco plans joint venture with San Miguel, Aboitiz group

Build up of power-generation portfolio to 1,500 MW

By Amy R. Remo

MANILA ELECTRIC Co., the country's biggest power distributor, is keen on forming possible partnerships with power giants San Miguel Corp. and Aboitiz Power Corp. to help build its planned power portfolio of more than 1,500 megawatts.

Manuel V. Pangilinan, president and chief executive officer of Meralco, said the two companies were among the local and foreign groups that the distribution utility planned to tap for its power projects over the next four years.

Apart from the two power giants, Team Energy, a venture between Marubeni and Tokyo Electric and Power Co., and the Consunji-led DMCI Holdings Inc. were among those that have earlier approached Meralco for possible partnerships.

Discussions with DMCI were still ongoing, Pangilinan added.

Meralco expects to spend as much as $2.3 billion (about P101 billion) in new plant its 1,500-MW power generation portfolio between now and 2016.

Pangilinan noted that Meralco has started taking "offs-market steps to get our first power generation project on stream and move forward to develop a portfolio of new generating [medium], mid-merit and peaking plants."

"We are looking at various fuel sources to power our generation projects, capitalized of the growing concern for our environment, the demand curve and the continuing call for lower generation charge," he added.

Meralco's initial foray in the power generation sector is a 135-MW peaking power plant in Calaunlan, Laguna, which is expected to cost anywhere between Ph3 billion and P7 billion.

According to Pangilinan, the Laguna power facility would run on jet fuel initially but could be converted later on to run on natural gas—as soon as the necessary infrastructure had been completed and the supply of natural gas becomes more accessible.

"It's still on track with the 2012 target. It's a peaking plant and is relatively easier to install in our chosen site in Calaunlan, Laguna," Pangilinan added.

Once it starts commercial operations within the first quarter of 2012, Pangilinan said Meralco might be able to provide its customers with cheaper power compared to those being traded at the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM).

Meralco sources its electricity requirements from the WESM, state-run National Power Corp. and its independent power producers, namely the Lopez-led First Gen Corp. (through the 1,000-MW Sta. Rita and 500-MW San Gabriel natural gas facilities) and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd.

PH airlines press reciprocity

From page B1

by foreign governments to local carriers.

However, the need for this would be waived if listing foreign airliners serve a particular route was in accordance with "national interest and mutual benefit."

Cebu Pacific said this would be an unfair advantage for foreign airlines.

"We strongly believe that the Philippine airspace is a valuable asset and should be used to further the long-term interests of the nation through mutually beneficial air agreements," the company said.

"We can compete with foreign carriers if given a level playing field of equal and reciprocal traffic rights. This level playing field is vital for our continued viability," it added.

In a separate interview, Alfred Yao, chair of Asia Airways, said the government should protect the rights of local airlines, which have invested billions of pesos and hired thousands of people to expand operations in the past few years.

"We welcome additional competition because it will grow the market for all airlines. But we should put everything on equal footing with foreign airlines," Yao said. "We are giving our something that's very precious. We should get something too."

He said the additional competition from foreign airlines might hamper Asia's own expansion plans. Earlier this year, the company announced plans to acquire two leasing 777 aircraft, which are capable of long-haul flights to the Middle East, Europe or even the United States.

But leisure carrier Southeast Asian Airlines (SEAir) offered a different view, saying the local air travel market was big enough for all airliners....foreign and local.

"We have a population of close to 100 million, but only 11 million of us travel. In Australia, they have seen cheap that people for their industry and [the airlines are bigger than ours," SEAir president Andrea Zapanta said.

He said giving foreign carriers access to the Philippines, especially to underdeveloped routes, would help the air travel market grow, benefiting all airlines.

need a job?

PH bond yields seen to stay low

From page B1

ket in the coming months," the bank said.

Current account and capital account are the two main components of a country's balance of payments, which is a record of all monetary transactions between itself and the rest of the world.

Current account refers to the balance of the inflows and outflows of goods, services and other funds such as income, donations and debt payments, while capital account shows the inflow and outflow of investments.

"Philippine government bond yields will likely stay low in May before rising in June on faster inflation rates," UBS said.

As of April, inflation rushed up to a 32-month high of 4.5 percent year-on-year, bringing average inflation for the January-April period to 4.2 percent.

As the main reserve auction for treasury bonds, the government sold P9 billion worth of 10-year debt paper, for which the yield averaged at 6.445 percent.

Gov't can reduce debts, save P24B yearly with Pagcor sale

Gaming privatization seen raising at least P400B

By Ros T. Dizhonkro

ATLANTA, GEORGIA—Selling off the gaming business of state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. would give the Philippine government a huge windfall that could trim its debts while still preserving revenues through taxes, according to a public official.

Rep. Bernadette Herrera (2nd District, Batangas) told the business on the sidelines of Coca-Cola's 125th anniversary celebration in Atlanta, Georgia, that if the Philippine government would use the sale proceeds to pay off some of its principal loans, it could save about P24 billion in interest expenses every year.

He said initial estimates indicated that Pagcor's gaming business could be sold for at least P400 billion.

"The Philippine government pays in loans at 6 percent or more yearly. Using the proceeds to pay off peso-denominated debts would mean huge savings," Marcelino said.

The Philippines' total debt stood at P4.74 trillion as of January this year, according to data from the National Statistical Coordination Board. Domestic debt alone was placed at P2.07 trillion.

Alternatively, the proceeds could be invested in bonds to make the money generate more money for the government, he said.

It has been reported that certain parties, including businessman Ramon Ang of San Miguel Corp., have expressed interest in either buying Pagcor's gaming business or in facilitating its sale. Ang had said in August last year that he and several other Asians were interested in Pagcor, however, no formal offers have been made.

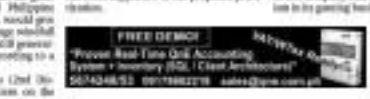
Marcelino authored House Bill No. 3217, which proposes the abolition of Pagcor and the privatization of its gaming businesses. Saying that the Philippine government should not engage in gambling, Marcelino said the Philippine government could simply regulate gaming.

"The government would still earn from gaming anyway, even without Pagcor as operator, since the private gaming operators would have to pay taxes," Marcelino said.

As for the current employees of Pagcor, Marcelino said: "They will simply be under a private employer. Many if not all, would probably welcome that since their earnings and benefits could improve. What is important is that the government should not engage in gambling."

Marcelino said that President Aquino has been supportive of the proposed privatization.

The chief executive earlier stated that Pagcor's privatization could end corruption in the company and improve professionalism in its gaming business.



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BUSINESS

PH bond yields seen to stay low

DBS expects uptick by June on high inflation

By Nonoy M. Dumlao

YIELDS ON Philippine government bonds are expected to stay low for the rest of the month but upward pressure from rising inflation may tick in next month, according to DBS Bank.

The Singapore-based bank said in a research note that last week's increase by 25 basis points to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' policy rates would also influence rate adjustments in June.

The increase was the second this year, bringing the BSP's overnight borrowing rate to 4.25 percent and lending rate to 6.5 percent.

Another factor is the shrinking budget deficit in the first quarter, which settled at P58 billion or just about a fifth of the year-ago level of P134 billion.

Even then, DBS said Malacañang would have no problem to keep the full-year budget deficit to no more than P300 billion even if it boosted public spending on infrastructure, given the sharply lower spending in the first quarter.

In making this observation, DBS noted that government spending in the first quarter of 2010 was high due to the national elections.

"Given that yields have been on a downward trend since mid-March and both the current as well as the capital account show strong surpluses, the Philippine government will likely borrow actively in the long end of the domestic bond mar-

>> BUSINESS 2

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BUSINESS

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Social, economic impact of PPPs listed

Think tank drafts policy framework

By Dustin L. Luna

THE EFFICIENT execution of the government's Public Private Partnership Program (PPP) will help boost the country's economic growth while bringing a host of other economic benefits for Filipinos, according to a private think tank.

In a paper submitted to Malacañang, PPP-oriented lobby group Foresite Solutions identified 14 sectors and economic impacts of the scheme on the country's development, all of which are anchored on the delivery of better, more affordable and timelier services to the public.

These include accelerated investments in public infrastructure, provision of value-for-money projects, greater investment participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), balancing regional development, environmental protection, and increased efficiency of, and access to, quality public services.

Other benefits for the country include improving core infrastructure, increasing the capacity and diversity of private sector participation, and ensuring that infrastructure projects are planned, prioritized and managed to maximize economic returns and are delivered in a timely efficient and cost-effective manner.

The paper was also submitted to the National Economic and Development Authority and the Department of Finance, the lead departments for President Aquino's economic programs.

Foresite Solutions said that managing fiscal risks created under PPP contracts, promoting efficient use of national and country assets, ensuring that user charges are affordable, respecting the employment rights and opportunities of employees, and enhancing the health, safety and well-being of the public are also among the impacts of the PPP scheme.

With the Palace now in the process of drafting and formulating its PPP policy, Foresite Solutions head Alberto Agra said his think tank wanted to help speed up the process by submitting a draft for the Palace's consideration.

"The need to have such a policy cannot be overemphasized considering that the first few PPPs will soon be subjected to bidding," he said. "At present, we have no national PPP policy and framework. Without

BOOKMARK

Napocor pursues rural power plants

By Amy R. Remo

DESPITE UNWILLINGNESS to assuming funds, state-run National Power Corp. said it is minded to put up new and additional power generation facilities on the for-fixing to-funds and resource areas not connected to the three main grids.

The undertakings' Sitpoon, though, to small power utilities group (SPUG), will push for projects that can increase the capacities of existing facilities within the year. It will also put up new power plants that are expected to be completed also in 2011, but may likely be commissioned by next year.

Based on the report submitted by the SPUG group, the increase in the capacities within the SPUG areas are expected to reach as much as 2,164 kilowatts (kW) or 2.16 megawatts (MW).

According to SPUG, current projects will increase the capacities of four diesel-fired power plants (DPP) in Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi by 1,830kW (or 1.83 MW) combined.

In particular, the capacity of the Isabela DPP will increase by another 1MW, Lanao del Sur by 1.6 MW, Mt. Province by 0.5 MW, and Bukidnon by 0.5 MW, all in Mindanao.

Meanwhile, the capacities of the Tawi-Tawi

Philex drops Tampakan bid

Filinvest profit up 14% to P620M in Q1

FILINVEST LAND Inc. (FLI) posted a 14-percent growth in profit in the first quarter of the year to P620 million from P545 million a year ago, due to higher lease revenues and lower costs.

In a statement, the company said its revenues during the period reached P1.931 billion, 29 percent more than the P1.617 billion registered in the first quarter of 2010.

Real estate sales amounted to P1.357 billion, 20-percent higher than the P1.070 billion attained in 2010, and accounted for 70 percent of total revenues.

Rental income—generated from Festival Supermall, PhCom Tower and Stockholm Cybertower in Alabang—contributed P559 million, 14 percent more than the year-ago level.

"The growth in rental income is attributed to higher occupancy rates registered by FLI's BPO office buildings at Stockholm Cybertower, as well as contributions from its newest building, Vertex One, which started operations in December 2010," the company said.

This is in line with FLI's goal of posting higher profit this year over last year. The company said it sees the local real estate sector still to be on the upside of the cycle.

The company earlier said it had set aside P12 billion for capital expenditures to fund the construction of new projects and the acquisition of existing ones. The amount is more than double what the company spent last year.

Filinvest president Joseph Tan said the company would launch five to-rent housing projects, six "affordable" projects and two mid-rise residential developments this year. These would translate to P13 billion worth of sales once completed. This is higher than the P9.9 billion booked last year.

FLI is also undertaking expansion of its commercial operations, particularly in Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, and construction of the first phase of 8 Cosmo, the lifestyle retail component of Cebu de Mare in Cebu.

Upon completion, these projects will add about 50,000 square meters of gross leasable area to the company's commercial portfolio. Paolo O. Montecillo

Complex issues stall project development, says Pangilinan

By Arra B. Reyes

PHILEX MINING Corp., the country's biggest mining company, is no longer keen on acquiring a stake in the $5.9-billion Tampakan copper-gold project in South Cotabato, despite the "complex issues" surrounding it.

According to Philex CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan, the host-to-open pit mining imposed by the provincial government, among other issues, have largely hampered and stalled the development of the mining project.

Instead, Philex has decided to focus its resources on mining projects that it controls and which it can readily develop and will be ready mines in Padcal mine in Benguet would run out of minerals.

Padcal was estimated to have a mine life of until 2019 or 2020, unless it can be further extended by Philex.

"We're focused on the Silangan copper gold project, which is entirely within our control. We'd like to proceed and because that's the low-hanging fruit for us. We're in control of the timetable, the processes, the expenditures, and so forth, the deal," Pangilinan explained.

Philex is preparing to spend $1.4 billion (about P61 billion) to develop and start production at the new Silangan mine in Southern Antipas. Of the amount, $600 million to $800 million would be used for the development of the mine from 2012 up to late 2015. Another $1 billion will be needed to sustain the operations over the estimated 20-year mine life at the Silangan prospect.

With respect to the planned joint venture with Manila Mining for the development of the Kalamazoo gold copper prospect, that is also largely within our control. If the survey results are good, as it is good in the case of Silangan mine, then we can proceed," Pangilinan added.

Philex earlier reported that it was interested in acquiring the 37.5-percent stake of Indophil Resources NL in the Tampakan copper-gold project.

Indophil currently owns 37.5 percent of Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI), the local company working on the Tampakan project in South Cotabato. The remaining 62.5 percent in SMI is held by Xstrata Copper.

The 37.5-percent stake, which has dropped "deep into earlier mining, has been up for sale since the $437.6-million buyout deal with Zijin Mining Group Co. of China was terminated due to "uncertainties."

"It's a big investment. It's a big project. It's a world-class asset and I think it will develop, if you get developed for the sake of this country. The [provincial] benefits to the community and the country are being overlooked. We've stalled here about mining and it's causing the project to be stalled unnecessarily," Pangilinan said.

The Tampakan is reportedly the largest undeveloped copper and gold deposit in Southeast Asia and potentially the fourth-largest copper-gold project in the world. However, plans to proceed with the project has been delayed due to gaps in the investment budget of the government, lodged by anti-mine groups and concerned local governments.

The Tampakan project is touted to bring in the largest foreign investment into the Philippines in the $5.9-billion investment only pertains to the mine-mouth cost as well the projected royalties, commercial properties. The mine is expected to operate from 2013 to 2033.

Mark Williams, general manager of Sumitomo Metal Mining MM, earlier said that the Philippine economy can reach to reap as much as $40 billion within a 25-year period.

Social, economic impact of PPPs

From page B1

a national policy, the government is left with only a piecemeal approach to PPP."

"So far, the government has no definition of PPP, our PPP window not clear, and we have no policy on which PH projects are[viable and which the PPP [scheme is] not suitable," he added. "The objectives, benefits, requirements of PPP and PPP procedures are not clear. Economic feasibility is not a criteria. We want to be part of the solution."

Ashle Ivan spelling out specific modes of carrying out and financing government-private partnerships, the 59-page draft of the PPP framework also said that the respective roles of public sector entities in purchase of services of companies involved in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of projects as the service providers, and of equity investors and debt providers as the private financiers.

The framework also proposed that projects costing P500 million and below should require Neda approval, while those above this level be approved first by the Neda board upon the recommendation of the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC).

"Regardless of the amount, however, negotiated projects shall be submitted for approval upon recommendation by the ICC," the proposed framework stated.

Previous Infrastructure proposed was culled from the Philippine development plan, previous and from memoirs of the US-based Institute of Public-Private Partnerships, as well as existing PPP policies in Australia, Singapore, Kenya, Tanzania and Pakistan.

Napocor

From page B1

Henares scheduled for commissioning this year.

Meanwhile, the new power plants in Isabela with a combined capacity of 300 MW are expected to be completed before the end of June, while a 240-MW facility in Masinloc, Zambales, is scheduled to be completed by July this year.

Earlier this year, Napocor found itself unable to pay the full supplies fee to BPI/E Indibler due to the power corporation, resulting in the utility being barred to conduct any bidding/power sales to and the lower charges/ending inflated fees, power consumers for substantial electricity rates.

Maybank

Book running and front running?

NOW it can be told.

The massive offshore that wiped out a few billion pesos worth of San Miguel Corp.'s stock may also stem in part from a local stockbroker who was...irony of ironies...part of the group tasked by the firm to market its $876-million issue to investors.

According to multiple market sources, the offshore seemed to really, liquid, a few days before the 14th. Stock book last month and soon after it became clear that the conglomerate would have to price to repay sale borrow due to "difficult market conditions" (borrowing below the PLDT share selling price was made public).

Once it was discovered that this local broker was leading the selloff, foreign San Miguel offshore shopkeepers there to do research on explanation. Their answer? They were merely executing selloffs on behalf of their hedge fund clients.

To this, San Miguel officials wondered whether these clients could have been tipped off about the lousy price, given the broker's knowledge of the matter.

San Miguel officials also think that some unscrupulous gamer took advantage of sideway information to short the company's stock. Those were the very same people who raised a hoard after the complaint broke—and with heavy upside the selling—volunteered to have trading on its shares suspended to flag headache for short sellers who needed to cover their open positions by buying at lower prices.

So... book running and front running? Hmmm. Needless to say, it is probably safe to assume that they won't be getting any business from San Miguel anytime soon.

Dennis C. Jacob

Golden foothold

THE PUNO INSIDE by Philex Mining of a 5-percent stake in Lepanto Consolidated Mining from institutional investors last week couldn't have come at the start of the Philex finally getting its consolidation of other local mining interests.

Mr. Ins Eust Ahmad Pangilinan's principal—Philex Vice chair Armand Sabitan—it said to be going for an local mining, believing this could be the next play focus for growth in the Philippines, during side infrastructure (while the recurring idea business remains a stable cash cow).

Some naughty pundits pointed out that the purchase of the Lepanto block from BPI Asset Management and Trust Group (BPI-AMTC) and First Metro Investment Corp. was were announced by Philex on the same day that San Miguel Corp. resumed its secondary shares on the stock market, in an attempt to mod the thunder from that bundle's mod.

The opposition, of course, is that MVP aren't sitty as it presents. The discussion with Lepanto and Manila Mining's Sy Issac, Felipe Yap, has been going on and off and on again for a few years now, and the ultimate goal (like how Don Ins built up its stake in Philex) is to eventually become either the majority voting block or a significant investor.

That could be done by buying more shares from Yap who had said he's "not getting any younger" or from Lepanto itself which, after all, has the flexibility to issue a series of preemptive rights by raising shareholders' to sell up to 20 percent in new shares to a new investor.

BPI-AMTC and FMIC also still have to existing shares in Lepanto which are minority, as does its 20 percent jointly, but any further additions (or selling) may have to wait depending on how juicy a deal Yap could extract from MVP.

Meanwhile, aside from a separate joint venture deal with Yap involving Manila Mining's Kalayaan mine that is contiguous with Philex's Silangan Gimarely Boyan, gas property, MVP is believed to be looking for more mining assets, and some possible buys began to accrue of gems which the next potential listed candidate is.

Doris C. Dumlao

Vegas in the Philippines

PUEBLO? is the proposed privatization of Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), or at least its gambling operations, has reached far beyond Philippine shores.

A source privy to the matter told The Daily Tan representatives of CBS, a global financial services company based in Switzerland, were in town with certain public officials early this month for a presentation.

Why? CBS is said to be interested in underwriting the privatization.

Proponents are envisioning that selling Pagcor's commercial half—while keeping the regulatory functions under government—could result in the Philippines becoming the US-developed Las Vegas in its gaming/casino destination.

Supporters of the privatization are counting that Pagcor that gaming management behind the likes of Wynn, Sands and MGM hotel-casinos would participate as strategic partners to interested Philippine enterprises.

And where did the presentation take place? Why, Las Vegas, of course. Rina Oliveros

Ricul's legacy at SEC

THE NEW Executive and Exchange Commissioner Ricul is yet another overseas and another lawyer from the University of the Philippines. But former Asian lawyer Rolando Herbosa has another claim to fame, being a direct descendant of the country's national hero—Jose Rizal.

His great grandma is Isabel Rizal Idea-cado Herbosa, to whom the martyred hero gave their lamp when he had hidden the famous Mi Ultimo Adios manuscript the night before his execution via firing squad.

Meanwhile, the SEC is evidently only Herbosa's second employer (apart from a short secretarial stint before becoming a lawyer), albeit her long career in stocks had allowed her to specialize in many areas such as telecommunications, banking, food and oil transportation, contract law, government contracts, public bidding and arrest, constitutional and even corporate law.

The appointment of Herbosa...who was described as a "stern, fair and no-nonsense corporate lawyer" by those who know her—coincides with the upcoming 150th birth anniversary of her great grandfather Jose (recognizing the weight of responsibility arising from her storied pedigree, Herbosa has vowed to use the experience she gained from private practice to contribute to better public governance and "serve the people with honesty and integrity").

Doris C. Dumlao

Oil futures slide and a promise of the day ahead

PLDT SME Nation supported the recently held National Convention for The Generics Pharmacy franchisees

The Generics Pharmacy makes medicine accessible to all Filipinos, with generic drugs to give women hospitality that's affordable, and affordable quality medicines. It partners with Filipinos that want to start a business of their own.

Picture shows (L-R) PLDT SME Metro Cebu Coordinator Gabriela Heart Cano Tolosana, The Generics Pharmacy owner Benjamin Lopez and PLDT SME Metro Cebu Area Sales Head Carlo Abad during successfully held National Convention for The Generics Pharmacy franchisees.

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BUSINESS

New SEC chair focuses on computerization

By Dixie L. Lalu

THE NEW head of the Securities and Exchange Commission has outlined her vision, saying she wants to make the country's corporate regulator a more efficient organization through computerization.

In her first meeting with members of the media last Friday, SEC Chair Teresita Herbosa said she wanted to make it easy for businesses to deal with the agency by automating the many processes that were still being done manually within the SEC.

"For example, the registration process. (So) new companies) should be done fully online," she said. "We need to update our records (of corporations), and we need to convert (documents on paper) to digital form."

A former corporate lawyer with extensive experience dealing with the SEC, Herbosa lamented that it was taking too long for private corporations to secure registration documents from the regulator.

At the same time, Herbosa also extolled the virtues of automation, saying it would help regulators monitor companies' compliance with legal requirements more efficiently.

"There are some companies that would rather join fairs instead of submitting documentary requirements," she said, explaining that the sheer volume of paperwork regulators need to process makes it difficult for them to act swiftly on habitual violators.

"If that's the case, I'd rather have them removed" from the roster of registered firms, she said—a move that would be possible if violations patterns are detected early by an automated reporting system.

Herbosa added that she would eventually be seeking additional budget from the government for a computer-based monitoring system that would allow the SEC to detect problematic firms—especially those with extensive dealings with the investing public—and take timely corrective action.

"It also want to focus on the training of our people," the SEC chief said, stressing that her agency is understaffed to deal with the growing number of companies under its supervision.

"Regulators should always be ahead of everyone else in matters of understanding market products."

Gold old days

BREAKTIME

Conrado B. Bautista III

THINGS NEVER change at the National Printing Office, or the NPO, the government agency in charge of "the printing of official forms."

From what we hear, the same modus business still happens at the NPO, possibly with the guidance from somebody high up in the Palace, said to be one of the trusted consultants.

To think, the focus of the Aquino (Part II) administration seems to be to run after the former vice administration of Gloriamma for alleged graft and corruption. The seems to be the sole preoccupation of our leader, Benigno "Jimmy" (a.k.a. BS). Where does he want to take us—this whole country? He wants to take Gloriamma and her family to jail.

Perhaps, too busy in his mission to weed out corruption in the past, which of course hardly matters to us today, BS forgets to check on his own people.

At the NPO, according to LOIs (list seen) being forced to order all their printing forms from the NPO, the "going rate" has gone up, as often among the costs of printing jobs for LGUs, particularly the cities in Metro Manila.

Now, the NPO does not have a working printing plant. It merely subcontracts the orders from LGUs to "duly" government official to private printing companies. Some orders along the way mysteriously disappear. The price of printing forms triple, even quadruple.

As we all know, NPO became a monopoly concerning all printing jobs of the government, since the mid-'60s" during the time of the Aquino (Part I) administration. Then came the so-called Government Procurement Reform Act, or RA 9184, which reportedly was forced upon us by the World Bank, purportedly to plug the holdups in government procurement, after those LGUs have been complaining against the NPO.

Then, the former administration of Gloriamili took away the NPO monopoly, requiring the NPO to compete with private printers.

Then single act of Gloriamma, an attempt to stop corruption at the NPO, prompted a flurry of court cases, all for the sake of keeping the NPO monopoly, which nevertheless were eventually resolved against the NPO.

Last year, in a way to preserve the "good old days" at the gold mine called NPO, somebody inserted in the General Appropriations Act—the 2016 budget—a provision that required government forms to be obtained through the NPO. Take note, the operative word was "through," meaning, the NPO did not have the capability to do the job.

That perhaps gave the windfall at the NPO as opening. All of a sudden, the Commission on Audit (Watchdog) Board, or the GPPB, which should enforce the procurement law RA 9184, came out with a resolution requiring that all printing needs of the government be routed through the NPO. Again, the train was "routed through."

Hence, it becomes—the GPPB resolution as the last spelling out the 2016 budget. The last time I checked, the appropriation act covered only the national government. LGUs used to be a different kind of animal.

Besides, the hints was the 2016 budget. Let us see, perhaps we wouldn't hear from Palace yet—even today, how?

Anyway, all of a sudden, after causing huge savings in their printing contracts with private companies during the time of the sole administration of Gloriamma, the LGUs were required to go through the NPO again under the Aquino (Part II) administration.

Somebody in the Palace must be laughing all the way to the bank.

But here is the thing: The World Bank is bound to disallow such a blatant attempt to go around the procurement law, which the World Bank actually forced upon us, to encourage free trade and profit.

I wonder what the World Bank will do. Or, as, not withhold future loans of the government, please?

* * *

In that case implicating Joel Reyes, the former governor of Palawan, in the murder of militants and environmentalist Gerry Ortega, a new angle has reached Iloilo Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

Reyes has asked Sr. Lina to look into reports that politicians and big time businessmen were trying to influence the outcome of the case.

Reports said that a certain Primal Javier, one of those picked up by the NBI for questioning, recently executed an affidavit that Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn and business mogul Jose "Pepito" Alotaza talked to him while he was in NBI custody, and they also gave him money.

Lavina supposedly got the gun used in the murder. In his affidavit, he said that he was merely used in the murder case.

Now, on July 28, according to Javier, Hagedorn and Alotaza went to the NBI headquarters in Manila and talked to him. He said Hagedorn gave him money.

Question: Why were Hagedorn and Alotaza so persistent in the case when they had to go to the NBI office, in person, to hand out money to a suspect?

Now, the principal suspect in the murder case is a certain Rodolfo Edrad Jr., alias Jun Reyes, who is the alleged gunman. Reyes could not be had charged. And he was offered P25 million to change his testimony implicating the former Palawan governor.

From what I gathered, the lawyers from Iloilo have been supposed killed. Are they doing pro bono work for the principal suspect? They have never been known in Iloilo as pro-bonos to do that.

As always, the police secretary has some mysteries to solve in this case, particularly because Lavina supplied names (i.e. Hagedorn and Alotaza) and all those useful details in his accusation of bribery against the NBI.

Let us see.

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BUSINESS

Rise of 'hot money' inflow manageable, says BSP

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas will keep a policy that is tolerant of the rising inflows of "hot money," saying the volume of the mainly speculative foreign capital is far from worrisome levels.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that while the amount of foreign portfolio investments coming in and then withdrawn at the end of the year after posting a record high last year, the increase remained within manageable levels.

"There will continue to be inflows, but the increase is expected to moderate [this year]," Tetangco told reporters Friday.

He made the statement amid the continuous rise in inflows of foreign portfolio investments to emerging markets, as historic low interest rates in the United States and the gradually rising interest rates in the developing world were encouraging yield-seeking investors to put their funds in countries like the Philippines.

According to data from the BSP, foreign portfolio investments in the Philippines registered a net inflow of $973 million in the first quarter, up by more than 116 percent from $385 million in the same period last year.

The data indicate a rising trend, as net inflow of foreign portfolio investments grew substantially last year. These amounted to $4.6 billion

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Japan woes to hit air travel sector

More Filipino travelers than foreign

By Paolo G. Montecillo

TOKUSHIMA Banking Corp. saw its profit drop by 13 percent in the first quarter of the year, as lower interest income offset a rise in trading gains.

The company on Thursday said its profit settled at P866.98 million in the first quarter. An 11.1-percent growth in loans extended in the period was not enough to make up for lower yields and lower trading gains, the company said.

Lower yields on loans led to the company's net interest income falling 1.5 percent.

"Our first quarter results, although lower than the previous year, was in line with our expectations," China Bank executive vice president Ricardo Chu said in a statement.

"Our budget considers for the year have quarterly targets that get progressively higher during the year to reflect the build up of business volumes, especially loans, in the succeeding quarters. We will work hard to meet our goals for the year," Chu said.

Interest rates have fallen since the start of the year, partly due to rate cuts done by the central bank in 2013.

Trading gains have also dropped for the banking sector due to the lackluster performance of the local equity market since the start of the year.

Despite the lower earnings, the company said it had approved the declaration of cash dividend worth P12 per share or P1.200 billion for the holders of the company's 100.2 million outstanding shares.

The bank likewise announced a stock dividend declaration of 10 percent, or one share for every 10 held by shareholders, subject to the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

In the meantime, the company's board elected Hans Sy, son of tycoon Henry Sy, as its new chair. Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GROWTH of the country's international air travel sector may slow down this year as a result of the crisis caused by the earthquake in Japan – a major trading partner and the Philippines' third largest source of tourists.

A ranking industry official said the people of Japan will likely put off vacations or any unnecessary travel in the coming months as they move focusing on rebuilding after the magnitude 9 earthquake that caused a tsunami.

"The Japanese will have to spend their money to rebuild or help others that were affected by the calamity," said Purisima Penaranda, deputy executive director of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB).

Last year, South Korea was the biggest source of tourists to the Philippines, contributing 393,025 visitors, data from the tourism department showed.

The United States came in second with 303,304, but Penaranda said this was mainly due to returning Filipinos who had already been naturalized as American citizens.

There were about 228,444 tourists from Japan, making it the third largest tourist market for the Philippines.

Luckily for the country, Penaranda said the country's travel sector mentioned, travel mainly by Filipino travelers, not foreigners.

Last year, 2.2 million foreign tourists came to the Philippines. But CAB data based on airline reports showed that there were 3.4 million international passengers in the country last year, half coming in and half going out.

Penaranda said the local air travel sector had shown resilience in recent years, posting growth despite travel advisories issued by several countries against the Philippines. The industry has also been able to weather different crises such as international disease outbreaks and the recent global recession.

Earlier this month, the International Air Transport Association (Iata) said events in Japan had resulted in a 1 percent loss in international traffic in March, with the slowdown led by the Asia-Pacific region.

Asia-Pacific carriers saw a traffic loss of more than 2 percent; North American carriers, 1 percent; and Europe's carriers, 0.6 percent.

No chance for TPP accession this year

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINES will have to wait at least another year to get invited to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, as the remaining nine member countries will be using this round of talks to iron out their own issues.

While still optimistic that the country would eventually be invited to join TPP talks, Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. admitted it was unlikely that such an invitation would come this year.

"It's difficult now to raise this round of talks, as the existing members are concentrate at ready to advanced stages of negotiations," he said in an interview.

In the meantime, he said informal discussions would be done with TPP members as soon, to ensure that the country would eventually be invited to join the group.

These informal bilateral talks would take place at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings this month. The country started informal talks with some TPP members on the sidelines of the Apec Summit in Yokohama in November last year.

At the same time, discussions would also be held with various stakeholders, including members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the academe, and the private sector to tell them about the benefits of a TPP accession, as well as the country's readiness to meet the commitments under the agreement.

The TPP is seen to be the country's only chance to have a trade pact with the United States, the Philippines' largest bilateral trading partner, as the US is now more inclined to get into multilateral trade agreements instead of bilateral ones.

The original negotiations for the TPP started with only three countries – Chile, New Zealand, and Singapore – in 2002. Brunei Darussalam eventually joined the talks and became part of the agreement.

China Bank suffers 17% income drop

XIAMEN CHINA Banking Corp. saw its profit drop by 13 percent in the first quarter of the year, as lower interest income offset a rise in trading gains.

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Rise of 'hot money' inflow manageable, says BSP

From page B9

in 2013, up from a mere $388 million the previous year.

Although the rise in foreign portfolio investments is a testament of confidence in the short-term growth prospects of the country, too much of it could cause a substantial appreciation of the peso and asset price bubbles.

Moreover, foreign portfolio investments are not much of help to the economy as foreign direct investments (FDIs) are. Portfolio inflows – funds invested in stocks, bonds, and other easy-in, liquefy securities – do not help much in job creation.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said that as of the survey, the imposition of controls on the entry of foreign portfolio investments was not in the list of policy options for the central bank. Instead, the BSP would continue to use conventional ways to avoid the ill effects of a surge in hot money inflows.

These measures include the easing of rules governing the outflow of foreign exchange. In the past, the BSP had implemented a series of measures that relaxed the rules and requirements on bringing dollars until foreign currencies out of the Philippines.

"Using conventional monetary tools would be sufficient to address the kind of magnitude that we are in terms of capital flows. We don't see the need for capital controls," Guinigundo said.

Guinigundo said the problem with the imposition of capital controls was that it could drive away substantial amounts of foreign investments, which he said was not the objective.

The challenge faced by policymakers in the Philippines is to create an environment that will encourage bond holders to convert their short-term investments into long-term and job-generating bonds, reyes reiterated.

This is because while foreign portfolio investments are rising significantly, the inflow of the much-needed foreign direct investments or FDIs continues to be small, reyes.

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New Asean, EU group to aid PH

By Abigail L. Ho

THE EUROPEAN Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines will leverage on its participation in the recently formed European Union-Association of Southeast Asian Nations Business Council to facilitate more business with members of the European bloc.

In a statement last Friday, ECCP president Hubert D'Aboville said the new group would serve as an important conduit for business between the two major regional blocs.

The EU-Asean Business Council was formed at the 1st EU-Asean Business Summit in Jakarta, Spain from ECCP other European business organizations included in the group are those from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The group will establish a senior-level "pro-activated" eThailand to propose measures that will deepen individual members of European business organizations in the Asean to bring their business interests for free.

It will likewise serve as a venue to interface with relevant institutions in both the EU and Asean, as well as for dialogues with other businesses.

"I see this initiative as a way to speed to enhancing the business dialogue between both regions and contributing to advocate European business interests in the Asean region," Mr. Cyprus Commissioner for Trade Kurt Dr Gucht said.

The EU-Asean area ranks number, considering the 500 EU billion-mark between the two blocs last year. Also in 2010, EU investments $34.44 billion in Asean.

Prices of manufactured goods down

Rate of decline slowing amid high oil prices

By Reuss W. Dandoy

THE DECLINE in factory gate prices continued to ease, settling at 3.9 percent year on year in March amid a double digit surge in prices of petroleum products, according to the National Statistics Office.

NSO data show that prices of manufactured items have been on a decline for 21 straight months, mainly due to the continuing double digit decrease in prices of furniture and fixtures.

Results from the NSO's latest monthly survey of factory gate prices...covering 23 industrial groups of manufactured goods included in the producer price index (PPI)...show that prices in seven other groups shrank, 13 showed gains and one showed no price change.

Showing single-digit drops were prices of electrical machinery non-electrical machinery, beverages, miscellaneous manufactures, chemicals, paper and paper products, and footwear and wearing apparel.

On the other hand, single-digit gains were observed in food manufacturing, rubber and plastic products, fabricated metal products, others, textiles, transport equipment, wood and wood products, leather, non-metallic minerals and basic metals.

There was no change in prices of publishing and printing for the second month in a row.

On a month-on-month basis, the PPI was almost unchanged.

Showing losses compared to February prices were non-electrical machinery, furniture and fixtures, miscellaneous manufactures, transport equipment, fabricated metal products.

In the fourth quarter of 2010, the industry sector...including manufacturing...was cited as the main driver of economic growth, which was recorded at 7.3 percent.

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INFOTECH

Budget smartphone to brave odds

ROTATING the phone enables you to enjoy the extra QWERTY keyboard in the C5-03's touch-enabled screen

Text and photos by Charlie E. Baker

NOKIA'S C5-03 may be likened to a football goalkeeper standing resolutely from assaults of free-kicks and determined attackers.

With the unprecedented demand for the 650-powered iPhones, the ever increasing popularity of Android-powered smartphones, and more significantly Nokia's recent announcement to use Microsoft Corp.'s Windows Phone 7 operating system as the foundation for Finnish giant's upcoming mobile phones, we may now be looking at one of the few remaining standard bearers of the Symbian OS.

Somehow this also makes the C5-03, a priced contender for those who find it tough to swing into a Nokia mobile phone using a different OS.

And what's not to love about the C5-03? It's priced just around P9,000, which is way below the price tag of an iPhone and most of Android-powered smartphones.

Dated Symbian

It's not that it comes equipped with a dated Symbian^1 OS (otherwise known as the Symbian^3 OS is the current operating system), but the C5-03 is not as powerful as the other Symbian^3 and Windows Phone 7 devices.

Translation: you may not be able to run the latest and greatest mobile games and applications on the C5-03.

Specifically, the C5-03 is powered by a 600-megahertz (MHz) processor, which is not bad at all, but is considerably slower than the 1-gigahertz (GHz) processors of the Nokia N8 and the Nokia E7.

Furthermore, the C5-03 comes with a 256-megabyte (MB) random access memory (RAM), which is also not bad at all, but is considerably slower than the 512 MB RAM of the Nokia N8 and the Nokia E7

BUSINESS

Shipping firms form venture

By Paolo G. Montecillo

LIDTKE LOBOSCO Shipping Corp. (LSC) has partnered with the Magsaysay shipping group to form a new company that will provide all the cargo handling work of both groups in various ports around the Philippines.

In a disclosure, LSC said it would own half of the new joint venture company called One Team Services Inc.

Its partner MSC Container Lines Inc., engaged mainly in inter-island cargo shipping, will own the other half.

No other details about the new company were disclosed.

MSC Container Lines Inc. is a shipping company under the Magsaysay Transport & Logistics Group.

It makes port in major terminals in the country, namely Batangas, Manila, Cebu, Zamboanga, Iloilo, Davao and General Santos.

"One Team Services shall develop competencies to eventually handle the cargo-handling requirements of LSC and MSC in other destinations in the Philippines, including the management of containers' yards and related support services," the disclosure read.

LSC said the new company would help the company cut expenses and make its operations more efficient in the long run.

Do more to boost growth, PH urged

ADB says country in 'middle income trap'

By Michelle F. Remo

THE ASIAN Development Bank has challenged developing countries like the Philippines to step up efforts to boost economic growth and consequently escape the "middle-income trap" they are caught in.

In one of the discussions during the recently concluded 44th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the ADB, economists noted that many Asian countries have remained middle-income earners.

ADB said in a statement that while the transition by several countries in the past decades from low- to middle-income status has lifted many Asians out of poverty, these economies have to speed up the process toward the developed status to pull out even more people from poverty.

Bindu Lohani, Director, ADB vice president for knowledge management and sustainable development, said there were still 1.8 billion Asians living below $2 a day.

In the case of the Philippines, the economy has grown by an average of 4 to 5 percent a year in the past decade. Despite this, the proportion of Filipinos living below the poverty line has even slightly increased.

Latest government data showed that poverty incidence in the Philippines stood at 26.5 percent in 2009 from 26.4 percent in 2006 and 24.9 percent in 2003.

ADB said one of the factors keeping some Asian countries in the middle-income trap is the loss of competitive advantage in cost of production.

"...Middle-income countries cannot compete with low-cost producers at the lower end of the market or with advanced nations at the higher end of the market," Shanthi Perera said.

ADB said a key strategy to boost growth is to engage the private sector in development efforts. There should be a campaign to unshackle the "sleeping private sector" and to develop human capital, use efficient and

BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor: Margie Quiroga-Espino

Nine to five no more in PH offices

By Vanessa B. Hidalgo

IT'S HERE to stay—no more five-to-nine businesses in the Philippines.

Based on a global research report from Regus—the world's largest provider of workplace solutions—nine of 10 companies in the Philippines are now offering flexible working hours to their staff. Companies are stressing that they are now reaping the benefits of "flexi" time.

Among the benefits are improved self-productivity, reduced overhead expenses and an improvement in work-life balance. A little more than half of local firms point out that flexible working hours cost less than their office working hours.

The research also discusses that flexible work brings about benefits not only for employees but to employers, such as a healthier work variety and even to the environment.

Seventy five percent of businesses offering flexible working hours report that their staff have a better work-life balance, an increased satisfaction and motivation. The survey also notes an improvement in staff productivity. A quarter of flexible working businesses also note that their policy helps them access a wider talent pool and allows them to employ more people in a variety to make it easier.

However, two issues remain a major hurdle to overcome for many companies offering flexible working hours. Over to 90 percent of businesses in the Philippines only offer first time to senior staff.

It is disappointing to know that some companies allow part times to hold them back from benefiting by all employees. However, a good proportion of them are in advantages ... we can expect further growth in flexible working over the decade," a spokesperson for Regus said.

I would like to update our members and readers on the encouraging developments within MAP from January to April this year.

To enhance international networking with our counterparts in the Asia-Pacific region, we are continuing MAP's membership with the Asian Association of Management Organizations (Asaio).

MAP became a member of Asaio in 1980. We stopped our membership in 1998 due to budget constraints but we re-formed our membership in 2006.

The Asaio is composed of management organizations from other countries like India, Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Qatar, and Singapore.

In the Asaio Council meeting, Prof. Syuhichi Hirose of Japan shared the experiences and lessons to be learned from the Japan earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster.

He presented a panorama of the world's top 10 economies in 2020 where the Philippines will be number 10, and by 2050, our country will be 17th top economy worldwide if there will be good governance and no corruption in the country.

I responded that the Philippines can make it to the world's top 20 economies in the light of the following:

1) The Philippines is number 1 in marine biodiversity, nature and, I like to believe, also in musicians.

2) 10 BPOs and call centers

MAP's first 120 days in 2011

MAPping the Future
Fabian A. Dee, Jr.

3) Big bargain conditions
4) In gold
5) In other natural resources
6) In human resources as Filipino expatriates are the preferred employees of Hongs, Queens, Shrubs, developers, hotels, restaurateurs, etc.

The latest news of the Philippines is 400 times that of Singapore, 200 times of Hong Kong, eight times of Taiwan, three times of South Korea. The cost of Asia rated Manila as the headquarters of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Australia was a notch till—one that our country was number two in Asia after Japan from the 1950s to the 1970s. My Korean friends told me in 1980s the Philippines was fourth Korea's benchmark. My Vietnamese friends told me most of their bridges were pre-fabricated in the Philippines.

Pera ng Bayan

MAP fully supported the "Pera ng Bayan" online initiative of the Department of Budget and Management for improved monitoring and feedback system for its projects and those of its attached agencies.

We have encouraged MAP members to use www.peranglayan.com in requesting their good and bad experiences in dealing with the DOF, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

MAP continues to encourage the DOF to aggressively pursue with maximum speed and intensity its campaign to prosecute, convict and jail smuggler tax evaders and smuggler ex-plugging the continuing plunder would go a long way in addressing our country's fiscal problems.

Build/Rehabilitate

MAP has agreed to be sponsors of Build/Rehabilitate, a countrywide entrepreneurship advocacy for a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) that brings unassailable livelihoods to millionaires.

The Development Bank of the Philippines will be coordinating government participation and the MAP will be promoting private sector involvement.

As MAP encourages private businesses dealing in agriculture, agro-livestock, agro-industry, agro-forestry, tourism, logistics and ICT, DBP is providing seed funding and coordinating government agency support to enable startups viability.

Among the industry priorities of the BP-PPP include coordination of the coconut industry, end of dependence of a narrow-banana industry, rationalization of agro-livestock sector, industrialization of agro-forestry and industrialization of herbal and vegetable production. The sudden return of Filipino expatriates fleeing the Middle East political upheavals and the Japan triple-whammy of earthquake, tsunami and radiation places a greater immediacy for these entrepreneurial efforts.

Agribusiness zones

In 2004, MAP through its Agribusiness and Countryside Development Committee (ABCD), launched the Farm Business School (FBS) Project.

The first implementor of the project is MPH Foundation. The MPH FBS opened its doors to the first batch of students in June 2009. MPH's mandate, in turn, partnered with the University of Baguio system to grant a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurial Management (BSEM) degree in Farm Business to those students who may want to pursue a college degree under a ladderized scheme. There are now two batches in the program with 39 students enrolled.

MPH Foundation, in partnership with the Department for People Development, offered a diploma in Agriculture Entrepreneurship (DAE) last year. The 31 students were enrolled in the program were provided scholarship by the Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Training Institute under the framework of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

Under discussion is the possible replication of these programs (DAE and BSBM) in Palawan with the participation of the Western Philippines University.

Under the circumstances of frost-fighting and Fukushima (FUKU), the Philippines as a tropical paradise can be made sustainable, especially with the declining fuel, prices support from the national government.

To address this problem, the ABCD Committee has proposed the establishment of Educational Agribusiness Zones (EAZs) to showcase technologies that can improve the lives of ordinary Filipino farmers and at the same time provide the financial resources to support the operations of the FBS.

The EAZs shall be managed like any other industrial park where common service facilities (i.e. water, electricity, garbage collection, security) are provided to tenants. For such services, tenants will be charged accordingly in the form of monthly fees or service charges.

In order that shall occur before the operation of the EAZ shall be used to support technical schooling, basic skills training, and research investment activities of the FBS.

Dynamic membership

Average attendance for the monthly GMMs (general membership meetings) in 2011 was 206, higher than last year's 147. More members and guests have attended MAP meetings to choose by the recent luminaries starting with Dan Ariely of the Duke University who is in the Jan. 25 MAP Inaugural meeting and induction of the 2011 MAP Board of Governors.

Renewed interest in MAP has been manifested by the record 99.7 percent collection rate for the 2011 annual dues as of March 31. In the past five years, our collection rate for the same period averaged 66.7% as of end-only.

MAP now has 730 members, and we hope to end the year with a strong membership base of at least 800.

Enhanced benefits

We have offered three learning sessions on the following topics: (1) "Elevated by Recognition: Schemata and Their Alignment with Success and Sustainability" with Richard Boyd, Robert Jolly executive director of The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, (2) "MAP Executive Briefing" with Dr. Carl Schramm and MAP Governor Lee Tesangco, and (3) "The ADB-ABN knowledge Hub for Trade and Investment's The ABN Distinguished Lecture Series" featuring the work of Dr. Jeffrey Williamson, Laird Bell Professor of Economics, Emeritus, Harvard University and Honorary Fellow, Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin. For the continuing education of our members, we will continue lining up good learning sessions through our MAP Executive Academy.

We have activated the MAP Speakers Bureau in order to propagate best management practices and to give MAP members a chance to share their wisdom and expertise with their fellow MAP members and with other business/professional organizations, schools, students, and other management practitioners and educators.

More engaged membership

Many members have become more engaged either on-sended 28 MAP BPO (Public-Private Partnership) Task Forces, which are mandated to enable MAP to be more proactive in pushing forward reforms and recommendations, instead of just reacting to issues. The present committees will also serve as task forces for the BP-PPP. Government agencies pursue their mandated advocacy their goals in order to maintain a culture of integrity.

The task forces are expected to generate the interim recommendations by June 30 in time for the July 25 State of the Nation Address of President Aquino, and the final recommendations by Sept. 30 in time for the national budget preparation.

Good governance

1. INTEGRITY PLEDGE: Five hundred seventy-five companies have signed the INTEGRITY PLEDGE for a clear demonstration of members' commitment to "walk the talk" and implement policies and procedures that will support the initiative. The "Integrity Initiative" is an advocacy for improved integrity standards that was officially launched in December 2010 by the Employers Confederation of Philippines (ECOP), Joey Concepcion, ABM and PMAP.

2. CSR FOR TRUTH-TELLERS AND WHISTLE-BLOWERS: Our MAP Fund Drive to help fight corruption is granted, and many Truth-tellers and Whistle-blowers in particular, have manifested us in turn over financial contributions to our Commissioner HEIDI MENDOZA and whistle-blower Col. GEORGE NAKIBA.

3. FUND DRIVE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAMS: MAP initiated a $400 Fund Drive to help fight corruption in the Philippines, and many Truth-tellers and Whistle-blowers in particular. Most thanks for the members who contributed to the Fund Drive. So far we have generated about P300,000.

CSR

We will soon be launching the MAP CSR Leadership Challenge, which aims to promote CSR as important and integral part of good management practice, inspire MAP members and other top executives to improve their practice and set the bar for the practice of CSR in the country, and recognize companies that exemplify what it means to be a true corporate citizen through their CSR programs.

Criminality

In line with our partnership with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, we have sponsored a 7 Habits for Highly Effective People workshop for its field officers and other high level officers of the PMA in order to enhance the leadership skills of the retired officers so that they are "whole persons" in their dealings with the cadets.

On disaster preparedness, we have recommended the active participation of clusters and associations aimed at prediction of earthquakes. We have urged citizens, the national government, the local government units, and private entrepreneurs to fulfill their responsibilities and not just of Cebu in sending relief, rescue, and food efforts of the Bohol earthquake victims are too vulnerable to disasters and are safe to live in, work, shop, dine, worship, and learn. We have requested our ambassadors to look upon disaster prevention as a basic tenet in urban planning, urban development and housing.

Meetings

At our March 29 GMM, we allowed five committee chairs to present their respective committees' programs and projects for the year. We got good feedback that it surely improved internal communications within MAP as we have agreed to semi-annualize it as a regular part of our program for our monthly GMMs.

We finally thanks to our general membership, especially our 2011 MAP Board members—Alex President Bob Lee, Treasurer Ed Francisco, Secretary Gin Ang, Governor Peter Del Rosario, Peculiar Binamira, Cang Henares, Lydia Santamaria, Jose Tan, Wilson Tieng, Lito Villanueva—for their generous support and active participation in MAP's programs and projects for 2011.

Thanks to our committee chairs: (1) Ben Bautista—MAP Academy, (2) Annie Del Mundo—CSR, (3) Eli Mallari—Membership, (4) Peter Dee—Specific and Fellowship, (5) Bob Lee—Programs, (7) Daniel Lim—CEO Conference, (8) Tanny Ligot—Environment and Sustainability, (9) Ed Mercado—Chapters, (10) Fred Pascual—Humanities and Education, (11) Nene Alvior Reyes—Management Development, (12) Tom Tantoco—Communications, (13) Evelyn Singson—Sectoral Issues, (14) Victor "Bazillar—Agribusiness and Countryside Development, (15) Charlie Tiburcio—Trade, Industry and ICT, (16) Thet Tan—MAP Search, and (17) Lito Zapanta—Membership.

The author is president of the Management Association of the Philippines and principal architect-urban planner/founder of Fabian Associates. Feedback at mapp@info.com.ph. For more details about MAP, please visit www.map.org.ph.

US Fed officials in no rush to scale back stimulus

NEW YORK—Two Federal Reserve officials on Friday stressed there will be no rush to end last of the US central bank's supersize monetary policy with the labor market still looking sick and inflation expectations largely in check.

Philippine Dudley, head of the New York Federal Reserve Bank and one of the Fed's most powerful policy makers, said the US labor market is improving but the economy still has a "considerable way to go" before returning to health.

Earlier on Friday, data showed US payrolls grew by a more than expected 244,000 jobs in April.

"While the exact pace of a jobs market recovery is always hard to predict, we were expecting the economy added 300,000 jobs a month from now on, "we would likely still have considerable labor market slack at the end of 2012." Unemployment, which ticked higher to 9 percent in April from 8.8 percent in March, is likely to remain "stubbornly high" for many months, he said.

Separately, St. Louis Fed President James Bullard said the Fed should keep interest rates on hold for some time after it completes its bond buying to assess its impact on the economy.

"He gives the committee more time to assess economic conditions," he said, speaking to a group of business executives in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Fed has kept interest rates at near zero since December 2008 and has bought more than $2 trillion in long-term securities to push borrowing costs still lower.

The Fed plans to complete its current round of bond-buying in June.

Bullard had taken a hawkish tone in March, saying the Fed is cut short its bond buying by $1.00 billion. Officials have also offered differing views on whether soft economic growth or inflation pose the biggest risk, suggesting a debate over when and how the Fed should embark on a tightening cycle.

Dudley and Bullard also commented on the recent spike in oil and commodity prices with Bullard saying he was not too worried that it would hurt the economy to any significant way.

"Increases in oil prices like the ones we have recently experienced have occurred many times in the past without seeming to have much effect on the economy," Bullard said.

Although Dudley flagged the high prices as a potential risk that could constrain overall consumer spending, more than anticipated, he said the key question will be if the run up turns out to be transitory, which he expects it will.

He said measures of inflation expectations were remain stable overall.

A Reuters poll found economists had raised forecasts for inflation this year but were not even a vast majority of those polled expected the US central bank to hold rates at the current level of zero into through 2011. For more

In response to a reporter's question, Dudley said he was hesitant to project the economic impact of the sudden slide in oil and many other commodities prices this week.

After global political turmoil sent oil prices surging to highest since since 2008, oil prices plummeted 10 percent on Thursday and were extending losses on Friday. Reuters

Economic recovery still has ways to go; labor market healing

Commodities rout seen dampening marts

LONDON—A commodities sell-off is bringing a sudden chill to financial markets whose investors were already sensing uncertain ahead—the prospect of a slowdown in China and other emerging economies, price crunch monetary tightening.

Silver and crude oil saw a dramatic plunge in the past week, registering second single-day fall—on Thursday.

Dillon lost as much as 17 percent in the past week alone, while the broader Reuters-Jefferies CRB Index, a global commodity benchmark, dropped more than 8 percent, on track for its biggest weekly fall since July 2010.

While owners are seen more driven by unwinding of speculative positions rather than a sudden reappraisal of the otherwise favorable global economic outlook, they are enough to prompt investors to scale back their risky bets.

This week brings key data and events for China, release series of policy actions to curb inflation raised fears growth momentum is slowing in the world's second largest economy.

The China-US economic and economic dialogue kicks off on Monday with data on trade balance, inflation, industrial production and retail sales all due later in the week.

Emerging stocks, measured by MSCI have erased almost all of their gains since January while their developed counterparts have fallen more than 5 percent from their year peak set to the past week.

"We see high correlations between equities and commodities, due to a demand effect coming from emerging economies, and there's contributing to a general move towards a defensive stance," said Christoph Rieder, strategist at Julius Baer.

"It will be difficult for equities in the next few weeks and we may have a prolonged period of sideways trading before the market picks up again. But we don't expect a huge sell-off given there's a lack of opportunities in other asset classes.

China has raised interest rates four times and banks' reserve requirements seven times since October, when it declared that it would make fighting inflation a priority.

Beijing has also allowed the yuan to rise against the dollar by guiding it towards successive record peaks. Many expect the yuan to post steady gains throughout this year. Reuters

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Cleantech investors eye opportunities in SE Asia

LONDON—Clean technology investors are eyeing doubled-digit returns as the emerging economies region is home to the region, private equity funds said at an investor event in London on Friday.

Although China and India remain the leaders in Asia's clean technology sector the rest of the region including Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam, offer good opportunities and leaders are to grow.

"We are looking at the best bankable markets, which are fully deregulated to private equity and energy capital," said Andrew Sawyer, Senior director of clean energy investments manager Low Carbon Investor's Asia-focused fund.

Low Carbon Accelerator Asia is targeting $200 million to invest in small-scale solar and wind, waste to energy projects, energy efficiency and clean water projects in Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The south and southeast Asian markets—including China—are expected to grow at an average annual rate of 9.4 percent to 2015, while demand for energy is expected to grow by around 76 percent in southeast Asia by 2030, he said. Reuters

Globe joins campaign to power up 4M households in far-flung areas

Globe boss joins the official kick-off ceremony of Wika for Light 2011, an advocacy drive meant to provide rural villages with solar energy. Present in photo are (from left) Globe Telecom Chief Corporate Affairs Officer Yoly Crisanto, Globe President and CEO Gil Genio, Philippine Business for Social Progress Executive Director Jose Ibazeta, Chairman of Solar Energy Foundation Philippines Antonio Argel, Together with them are the three others who will lead this campaign (from left) Globe Chief Technology Officer Jaime Garcia, Philippine Business for Social Progress Executive Director Jose Ibazeta and Solar Energy Foundation Philippines Chairman Antonio Argel. (photo by Globe)

UCPB BALANCE SHEET

UCPB CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

UCPB CORPORATE OFFICES: 7907 Makati Avenue, Makati City 1200

Smart brings job, business opportunities to Dagupan City's Labor Day and Pista'y Dayat celebration

DAGUPAN BUREAU in Dagupan City was teeming with job hunters and aspiring entrepreneurs on Labor Day when interview booths of Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) kicked off its 'Smart Pinoy Bulay Asensu: Job and Negosyo 2011'.

Now on its fourth year, the event is held annually by Smart to enable Filipinos to find overseas and local employment opportunities. To date, it has generated more than a thousand job seekers from industries both local and overseas. This year, the job fair was given an additional dimension as it also encouraged participants to become entrepreneurs.

Smart partnered with business experts from Go Negosyo, Lori's Go Foundation, Transcendental Meditation, Livelihood Training Center, Job Stores, and Smart Library and provided both aspiring and former OFWs, their families, and other Dagupan City locals with lectures on how to start and develop a successful business enterprise.

The Smart 'Pinoy Bulay Asensu' event was concluded with the Pista'y Dayat, the annual seasonal celebration of commerce, industry, and culture in Dagupan itself, and from which Dagupan City's famous Bangus Festival originated.

"We are very thankful to Smart for supporting our Bangus Festival, Pista'y Dayat, and Labor Day celebrations by bringing employment and business opportunities that will surely help usher and hasten our local economy," shared Dagupan City Mayor Benjamin Lim.

Aside from the local government of Dagupan, the 'Smart Pinoy Bulay Asensu: Job and Negosyo 2011' was held in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Trade and Industry, National Statistics Office, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

From Dagupan City, the 'Smart Pinoy Bulay Asensu: Job and Negosyo 2011' will move to various provinces across the country to bring more fun, jobs, and business opportunities.

EPLDT'S NTTO RECEIVES ISO CERTIFICATION

EPLDT's Nitto Data Center, the first privately-built data center in the country to receive an ISO/IEC 27001 certification, achieves another milestone by being the first data center in the country to be certified for the ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management System (EMS) standard. Awarded by AJA Registrars, a renowned certification body accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), this recognition distinguishes Nitto as a green data center that provides world class services while employing environmentally conscious and sound means. AJA Registrars has also awarded Nitto its fourth consistent certification by the ISO/IEC 20000 Quality Management System and ISO/IEC 27001 Information Security Management System standards respectively. With these certifications, Nitto has maintained its recognition as one of the country's most secure, that it complies with global data center specifications and best practices. Photo shows (from left): Dato Simon Tay, CEO of the parent company; data center operations; Beth S. Lui, of IT procurement and IT; and Paul Beginsay, AJA Registrars the general manager during the formal awarding of the certificates, held at the PLDT head office.

TOYOTA DONATES AUTOMOTIVE TOOLS TO ASU

As part of its commitment to elevate the level of technical education in the country, Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation (TMPF) donated automotive tools and equipment worth P3 million to partner schools, Adamson University (AdU) and Angeles University Foundation (AUF). The donations were inaugurated and received the assurances of the school to enhance hands-on learning of automotive technology course students in their respective schools. Photo shows (from left) Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation, Inc. Executive Director Jose Ma. Alberto Velasco, AdU President Dr. Ricardo Laguzad and AUF College of Industrial Technology Dean Dr. Antonio Ocampo.

SCB OFFICER PAYS COURTESY CALL TO P-NOY

Samuel Gingin Sindico (Standard Chartered Group executive director, head of retail and executive officer for Asia, second to the left) pays a courtesy call to President Benigno Aquino III. Sindico's visit, which is the first for a board director in recent times, is a consequence to acquire for Standard Chartered Philippines, the country's first international bank which is reaching its 140th year of operations in 2012. Admired range of financial solutions and services is heralded during the visit to Malacañang Investment Institutions for the President to grace the 14th year celebration next year. Photo shows President Aquino III (right) welcoming Sindico (Chartered Bank's group executive director and Asia CEO Jaime Bautista (center) Standard Chartered Bank Philippines CEO Mahendra Gursahani (left) at the Palace Room of the Premier Guest House in Malacañang recently.

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Kenny G Live at the PICC

AXE ENTERTAINMENT Services is proud to announce "Kenny G - Live at the PICC 2011" on May 23. Born Kenneth Bruce Gorelick, Kenny G is the internationally-noted Grammy winning adult contemporary and smooth jazz saxophonist. He is the biggest selling instrumental musician of the modern age, with global sales of more than 75 million albums. Kenny G has received a place in the Guinness Book of World Records for playing the longest solo ever recorded on a saxophone. During concert rehearsing, Kenny G took Leo T. Sid for 45 minutes and 41 seconds at the 2009 Macau Wonderful New Year's Day. His hits list includes "Songbird," "Forever In Love" and many more. Kenny G achieved runaway quite early with both "Gravity" and "Gravity" studio albums achieving platinum success in the USA. Succeeding albums "Breathless" and "Miracles" were successes unparalleled in the instrumental world. When he performs in Manila this May 23, it will be his fabulous thirty-first time in the Philippines. Tickets are available at Ticketworld at 891-9999 for ticket information and reservations. For VIP tickets call Dennis at (0921) 4127777 or (0918) 9491993. Limited seating is still available. Kenny G Live is supported by 100 International Channels.

Mastering English for law students and professionals

THE DIVINECRIA, part of a lawyer and a professional to be communicable and persuade and English is their primary weapon in accomplishing this mission. The proficiency in communicating in this language is indispensable in law school and in the practice of law. Legal communicative. Correct grammar and English usage are critical in writing with clarity, precision, and conciseness. The Center for Global Best Practices will be conducting a seminar entitled "Mastering English for Law Students and Bar Examinees" on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 24 and 25, at the Pearl Manila Hotel. The objective of the program seeks to fill the needs of law students and professionals in increasing their command of the English language as well as sharpening. This program is applicable to college students, law students, bar examinees, aspiring lawyers, and professionals. Attending this event is an investment that is worth a lifetime of reward. Inclusive in the seminar is passers Jim II. Lopez, owner of the Center's most prolific writers. He is the only author who has won this National Book Awards three times, which is awarded by the Manila Critics Circle and the National Book Development Board. He will be joined as a lecturer by another acclaimed winner of the National Book Award, Jose N. Carillo who authored the recently published book, Explicit Rules and Simple. For more details, visit www.cgbp.org or call (02) 896-9999/896-9998 or (0922) 813-3936 or (0923) 815-7536 or (0922) 813-3936 (Cebu).

ProductFILES

Collect these cool Grass T-Shirts from Easy Pha-max

THESE GRASS T-Shirts run smack of pure, nature, organic food and healthy living. They can be yours for free if you collect Dee Lays Pha-max Grass T-Shirt collectible cards. Simply purchase a 10+1 Wheatgrass value pack or any Easy Pha-max product worth P400 and get a sticker card. Trade these Easy Pha-max Grass T-Shirt free call cards with friends and collect a Grass T-Shirt of your choice. For every you've got till June 30 only to get those stickers cards and have your own special collectible Grass T-Shirt.

Can't wait to get your hands on these T-Shirts? Buy P1,500 worth of products in a single transaction and you can already redeem your free Grass T-Shirt. The shirt is come in five different designs with varying catchy slogans like: OMG! Oh My Grass; This not a cow hat; I love grass; Think Green, Live Green; Keep on the grass, to name a few. Available in three shades: white, black and green. Get one or all when you buy Easy Pha-max products in supermarkets or shopping malls nationwide on March 21 at while stocks last.

Stickers and shirts may be redeemed at any Easy Pha-max kiosk in different malls like SM City (Bacoor, Bacolod, Baguio, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Dasmariñas, Iloilo, Lifestyle Center Mall of Asia, Manila, Marikina, Megamall, Muntinlupa, North Edsa Annex, Pampanga, Sta. Mesa, Sucat, Pasig, Sta. Rosa), Robinsons (Ermita, Galleria, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo, Malolos, Metro East, Novaliches, Pampanga, Pioneer Mall, Gateway Gallery Mall, Cubao Farm Mall, Limketkai, Cagayan de Oro, for more info call (02) 896 1111 or toll free 1-800-10-896 1111, or log on to www.robinsonsstores.com.

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INVITATION TO BE ABB
Ref. No. CW-11-0010

Design and Build of Water Treatment Plant and Related Works for Leyte Metropolitan Water District

1. The Leyte Metropolitan Water District, through its Chairman, invites Filipino firms from the Local Bank of the Philippines, interested to qualify for the Design and Build of Water Treatment Plant and Related Works for Leyte Metropolitan Water District. The Project is estimated to cost P 500,000,000.00. Bidding for the Project shall be conducted through Competitive Bidding, as defined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

2. The Leyte Metropolitan Water District now invites bids for the Design and Build of Water Treatment Plant with a design capacity of 50,000 cubic meters per day, including the following: (1) Pumping Station, (2) Chemical Building, (3) Electrical Building, (4) Administration Building, Chemical Building, Laboratory, garage and Guard House, (5) Clearwell, (6) Sedimentation Tank, (7) Filtration Plant, (8) Backwash Water Reservoir, (9) Sludge Thickener, (10) Sludge Drying Beds, (11) Sludge Lagoon, (12) Chemical Storage Building, (13) Chemical Feeding Equipment, (14) Laboratory Equipment, (15) Electrical Equipment, (16) Mechanical Equipment, (17) Instrumentation Equipment, (18) Piping, (19) Valves, (20) Fire Protection System, (21) Sludge Dewatering Equipment, (22) Sludge Pumping Equipment, (23) Sludge Conveyor System, (24) Sludge Thickener Equipment, (25) Sludge Drying Beds Equipment, (26) Sludge Lagoon Equipment, (27) Sludge Pumping Equipment, (28) Sludge Conveyor System, (29) Sludge Thickener Equipment, (30) Sludge Drying Beds Equipment, (31) Sludge Lagoon Equipment, (32) Sludge Pumping Equipment, (33) Sludge Conveyor System, (34) Sludge Thickener Equipment, (35) Sludge Drying Beds Equipment, (36) Sludge Lagoon Equipment,

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NOTICE

Please be informed that:

PHILIPPINE INVESTMENT ONE (SPV-AMC), INC.

and

PHILIPPINE INVESTMENT TWO (SPV-AMC), INC.

have new telephone numbers as follows:

Telephone number:	+632 552 3570
Telephone number:	+632 552 3571
Telephone number:	+632 552 3572
Fax number:	+632 552 3573

Philippine Investment One (SPV-AMC), Inc. and Philippine Investment Two (SPV-AMC), Inc. can be reached at Unit 1615-1616, Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200

DepED

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Department of Education

Region I (Ilocos)

Urdaneta City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE CATERING SERVICES OF BASIC TRAINING OF SECOND YEAR TEACHERS ON THE 2010 SECONDARY EDUCATION CURRICULUM (SEC)

1. The Department of Education, Regional Office I, through the General Appropriations Act for FY 2010 intends to apply the sum of Seven Million Two Hundred Eighty Two Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (Php 7,282,200.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Catering Services for Basic Training of Second Year Teachers on the 2010 Secondary Education Curriculum (SEC) in Batch "A" - Area I of SDO Urdaneta City, Pangasinan and Batch "B" - Area II of SDO Dagupan City and SDO Pangasinan I and II.

Contract Name	Amount (Php)
Catering Services for Basic Training of Second Year Teachers on the 2010 Secondary Education Curriculum (SEC) in Batch "A" - Area I of SDO Urdaneta City, Pangasinan	3,641,100.00
Catering Services for Basic Training of Second Year Teachers on the 2010 Secondary Education Curriculum (SEC) in Batch "B" - Area II of SDO Dagupan City and SDO Pangasinan I and II	3,641,100.00
TOTAL	7,282,200.00

2. The Supplier shall be duly licensed by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and must have at least five (5) years experience in the catering services. The Supplier must submit the following documents: (1) Valid Mayor's Permit; (2) Valid DOT Accreditation; (3) Valid DTI Registration; (4) Valid Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) Clearance; (5) Valid Social Security System (SSS) Clearance; (6) Valid Pag-IBIG Clearance; (7) Valid Income Tax Return (ITR); (8) Valid Business Tax Return (BTR); (9) Valid Certificate of Registration (COR); (10) Valid Value Added Tax (VAT) Clearance; (11) Valid Certificate of Good Standing; (12) Valid Certificate of Non-Forum Shopping; (13) Valid Certificate of Non-Blacklisting; (14) Valid Omnibus Sworn Statement; (15) Valid Certificate of Compliance; (16) Valid Certificate of Site Inspection; (17) Valid Certificate of Non-Conviction; (18) Valid Certificate of Non-Pendency of Case; (19) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Labor Laws; (20) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Environmental Laws; (21) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Occupational Safety and Health Laws; (22) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Fire Safety Laws; (23) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Sanitation Laws; (24) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Food Safety Laws; (25) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Water Quality Laws; (26) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Air Quality Laws; (27) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Noise Pollution Laws; (28) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Solid Waste Management Laws; (29) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Hazardous Waste Laws; (30) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Toxic Substances and Hazardous Waste Laws; (31) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Ozone Depleting Substances Laws; (32) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Persistent Organic Pollutants Laws; (33) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Prior Informed Consent Laws; (34) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Basel Convention Laws; (35) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Stockholm Convention Laws; (36) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Rotterdam Convention Laws; (37) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Montreal Protocol Laws; (38) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Kyoto Protocol Laws; (39) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Copenhagen Amendments Laws; (40) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Beijing Amendments Laws; (41) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Montreal Amendments Laws; (42) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Kyoto Amendments Laws; (43) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Copenhagen Amendments Laws; (44) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Beijing Amendments Laws; (45) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Montreal Amendments Laws; (46) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Kyoto Amendments Laws; (47) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Copenhagen Amendments Laws; (48) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Beijing Amendments Laws; (49) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Montreal Amendments Laws; (50) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Kyoto Amendments Laws; (51) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Copenhagen Amendments Laws; (52) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Beijing Amendments Laws; 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(98) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Kyoto Amendments Laws; (99) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Copenhagen Amendments Laws; (100) Valid Certificate of Non-Violation of Beijing Amendments Laws.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to the RA 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat and purchase the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Department of Education provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

5. A pre-bid conference shall be held at the Pre-Bid Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, DepED Regional Office I, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan on May 16, 2011 (Monday) at 10:00 a.m. which shall be open to prospective bidders.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before May 20, 2011 (Friday) at 10:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

7. Bid opening shall be on May 20, 2011 (Friday) at 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, DepED Regional Office I, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bid opening activity. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. For further information, please refer to:

Atty. [illegible]
Chief, Legal Division
DepED Regional Office I
Urdaneta City, 2428
Tel. (075) 632-2165

Approved:

(Sgd.) LOCSIN-DOCOY, DAN ANTONIO
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P-Noy to keynote UNI-APRO confab

PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO III will deliver the keynote address in the upcoming 2nd Union Network International (UNI) Asia Pacific Regional Organization (APRO) Conference in Manila.

To be held on July 3-6, 2011 at the Century Park Hotel, the UNI-APRO Conference is hosted by the Union Network Philippines (UNP) led by the National Union of Bank Employees (NUBE) headed by Jose P. Ibasan, Jr.

The Regional Conference will be attended by delegates from 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The UNP covers various sectors of the service industry such as: banking and insurance, commerce and distribution services, telecommunications, postal, graphics and printing, private medical services hospitals, and the hotel industry. Headed by Jose P. Ibasan, Jr., the UNP has 14 affiliates with more than 50,000 members. UNI, on the other hand, is the world's biggest global union federation, with more than 15 million members in 115 countries and regional unions service industries.

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2011 Heritage Month focuses on José Rizal

By Angelica Bonessa
Contributor

IN LINE with the 150th birth anniversary of Dr. José Rizal this year, the 2011 Heritage Month celebration this May will feature the life and works of the Philippine national hero.

Heritage Month was officially declared upon May 1 as the National Museum's grand statement, Kinal Pusó.

The organizing committee is headed by Reynaldo Terry Ayuí, the new head of National Commission for Culture and the Arts' (NCCA) Subcommission on Cultural Heritage, and members of the University of Santo Tomas Archives.

"[The goal is] to promote Philippine Her-

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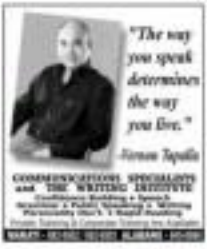

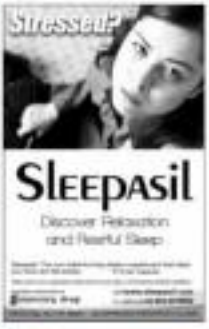

Why's and wherefore's of Icomos Philippine Committee

THE GLOBAL Icomos network mostly links not only with Unesco but also advises many national governments on cultural heritage issues.

Unesco is the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organization, the Paris-based agency that, among many functions, takes charge of the World Heritage List, overseeing conservation and management of all inscribed "natural," "cultural" and "cultural landscape" properties on the list (about nowhere near 1,000 such).

Icomos is the official advisor to the World Heritage Committee on cultural heritage matters, reviewing and evaluating proposed sites before's annual meeting their inscription to the World Heritage List.

To monitor the far-flung World Heritage properties, Unesco relies on the Icomos network, often requesting assistance from each national committee of Icomos to monitor properties in their countries.

When cultural issues arise in any World Heritage property, Icomos members experts are part of the team sent by the World Heritage Committee to check and recommend solutions.

Unlike Unesco, Icomos needs no introduction in the Philippine public despite its having been active in the country, albeit in a very low, quiet key, since the late 1960s, when its primary activity was to advise the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Unesco National Commissions of the Philippines on international and national cultural heritage matters.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts recognizes Icomos as a one of two accredited Philippine heritage NGOs that merit a permanent representative at the NCCA Commission on Monuments and Sites.

What is Icomos?

Icomos is the acronym for International Council on Monuments and Sites, a Paris-based global organization of conservation professionals that regulates the conservation practice worldwide.

The Icomos Charter of Venice is internationally recognized as the standard to be followed for the conservation profession.

The organization has a network of approximately 20 International Scientific Committees whose membership focuses on a certain aspect of conservation.

As a sampler of the wide range of interests, some of these committees are: Vernacular Architecture; Cultural Tourism; Historic Towns and Cities; Underwater Archaeology; Earthen Architecture and Mixed Heritage; 20th Century Heritage; Legal, Disaster Management; Cultural Landscapes.

Each of the International Scientific Committees undertakes and publish research in their areas.

More importantly each committee prepares a charter defining its principles and rules, and sets guidelines for members to work toward upholding the principles.

Icomos members in the Philippines have been networking with foreign colleagues, exchanging professional expertise, advising each other on projects, and offering its expertise on heritage concerns

SAUDI families gather around a picnic area at Wadi Hanifa near Riyadh.

IN CONTRAST to the dry desert, an abundance of water defines the tropical Philippines.

Icomos Philippine Committee is a small organization whose members have been retired by years to be bona-fide conservation specialists whose training and experience qualify them to undertake investigations and national assignments to oversee aspects of heritage conservation.

The roster of Icomos Philippine Committee members has been submitted to the Department of Tourism, Intramuros Administration, and other government and private organizations as professionals certified to undertake conservation work.

Icomos members in the Philippines have been networking with foreign or national colleagues, exchanging professional expertise, advising each other on projects, and offering its expertise on heritage concerns.

More information on Icomos can be found at www.icomos.org and www.icomosphilippines.com.

Now comes an announcement: Each year, Icomos and Icomos celebrates International Heritage Day. The theme for 2011 is "Heritage of Water."

Pasig tour

In observance of International Heritage Day, Icomos Philippine Committee, the Heritage Conservation Society, and the City of Manila organized last week a scenic cruise on Pasig River.

A presentation on the "Heritage of Water" was by this columnist, who is president of the Icomos Philippine Committee, vice-president of its International Scientific Committee on Vernacular Architecture, and member of its International Advisory Committee in Paris.

Your comments are invited at jposh.pilce@gmail.com.

2011 Heritage Month focuses on José Rizal

From page 01

huge and to protect it," José said. "We consider this heritage but are negative that roughly the huge, which are the buildings, the commerce, the artifacts, and the intangible heritage—the dances, the languages and the gestures. So we included both of them so parts to Heritage Month."

Highlighting the month-long celebration include activities dedicated to Rizal, from April 27 to May 15, the National Library will undertake the restoration of the original editions of Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere" (1887), "El Filibusterismo" (1891), "Ultimo Adios" (1896) and "Guillermo Tell" (1886).

Several experts Monika Schnitzer from Cologne and Gunter Dehnhardt can do the restoration.

Restoration equipment such as acid-free boxes and papers were hand-carried by the experts. The National Library has also built a room for the project, with controlled lighting and temperature.

The original manuscripts are kept in a vault in the library's Rare Books and Special Collections division.

Most effective

Artist Boomer Cerbonia and Ms. Loreta Ga of the National Library took up various conservation course in Germany to be able to handle well the manuscripts after the restoration.

NCCA Commissioner Regalado Trota José: 'Know our culture through exposing ourselves to different people in the Philippines. Go around the country and experience it... You don't get to see it in front of a computer monitor'

Cerbonia is also the conservation project director.

On May 17, the National Historical Commission will hold a preview of the musical "The Last Tears," about the national hero, at the Cultural Arts Auditorium of the la Salle University.

The movies "Hasod sa Impatan," "José Rizal," and "José Rizal: Ang Buhay ng Isang Bayani," will run May 20-June 30 at the National Library.

"The last part of the Heritage Month will be held in Dapitan at the Rizal Shrine, which will be a fitting conversion to have Icomos that's the quincentennial celebration of Rizal's birth," José said.

Heritage Month aims to send the message across the archipelago of the need to appreciate and value Philippine culture.

"Know our culture through exposing ourselves to different people in the Philippines," José said. "One of the most effective ways, I think, is to go around the country and experience it... You don't get to see it in front of a computer monitor."

Taiwanese arts fest

Also included in the celebration is the 2nd Taiwanese International Arts Festival, with the shows, "Painting through the Style," May 13-14, in Dapitan.

The festival will include art talks by Manny Montelibano on multimedia installation arts; Dennis Aseron on Black Artists in Arts and Rachel Arit, Mico Manalo on Eumelia Talleo in literature; Annie Bangayan on Kalinga musical instruments; and Benny Solking on bamboo musical instruments of Calinga.

To see full list of activities, visit heritagemonth.ncca@yahoo.com.

Misa Cantada at Santa Ana Church on May 12

SANTA Ana Church in Manila and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts will hold an ecalic unified Eukaristiya a la Virgen de los Dessam paradox, with a Misa Cantada, on the feast day of the Nuestra Señora de Desamparados on May 12.

The liturgy will be a highlight in the celebration of National Heritage Month.

On May 2, the ceremonies in honor of Our Lady of the Abandoned, patroness of Santa Ana, opened.

Santa Ana Church, one of the first missions outside of Intramuros founded by the Franciscan Order in 1578, has been recognized as an archdiocesan site and important heritage landmark.

FRANCISCAN priests celebrate High Mass.

Misa Cantada is a solemn High Mass with songs in Latin or Spanish. The Mass will be officiated by Rev Fr. Andrew Gregio, OFM, with the UST Liturgical Choir and the Santo Domingo Chorale, to be conducted by chairmaster Eugene de los Santos, performing the liturgical songs.

The National Heritage Month was born out of Presidential Proclamation No. 439 signed on August 13, 2003, declaring the month of May of every year as National Heritage Month. This is "in recognition of the need to create among the people a consciousness, respect and pride for the legacies of Filipino cultural history and love of country."

This year's theme is "Tayo: Weaving Our Stories, Threading Our Paths." Tayo! is Tinio Pampanguan for persons or "heritage."

Singer-songwriter Ogie Alcasid is this year's NCCA Heritage Ambassador. The NCCA executive director is Malou Jacob.

For more details, contact NCCA Public Affairs head Anna Sanchez Segovia at (632)527-7520; 527-2192 loc. 122 to 123, or 0920-9081307; or Heritage Month project director Ms. Cecilia Cabrera (632)527-2192; 527-2192 loc. 132, or 0919-2539553. E-mail: ncca.pais@gmail.com.

AFTER Evel Santa Ana Church, Manila

Caña's kaleidoscopic art

"KALEIDOSCOPE I" (detail)

THE ARTIST known as Caña—Potenciño Caña Valencia—will open his seventh one-man show, "Kaleidoscope: World-2," on May 13 at Artes Galería.

The title is appropriate because, of all devices, it is the kaleidoscope that best exemplifies Caña's art.

His art is kaleidoscopic in its range of subjects, in its selection of saturated hues and colors, which can be shimmering and brilliant, or cool and subdued, and in its inspired dedication of prisms of light and hints of shadows.

Most of Caña's figures in his paintings wrap themselves around the shapes of the letters C and D.

Despite the wide variety of subjects, Caña's pieces present a coherent, organized whole. The unifying elements are the artist's mastery of his unique technique (it is difficult to emulate a Caña painting) in the words of anybody else) and his intensely personal view of the world.

The show formally opens May 12, 6:30 p.m., and will run until May 26.

Artes Galería is at the 2/F LRI Design Plaza, 2315 Pasong Gamela St., Bel-Air, Makati.

FROM BOOK TO FILM

'Water for Elephants' evokes circus world

By Edric Paul A. Pereda
Contributor

ROBERT Pattinson and Reese Witherspoon star in the movie.

WHEN you hear the word circus, you imagine big tents with colorful flags and draperies, graceful clowns, small, lithe women flying through the air. You hear the lion roaring at the end of a trainer's staff. The air smells of popcorn, sawdust and cotton candy, or a variety of ice-cream flavors.

You would think any story about the circus bears no hope of escaping this childish stereotype. Yet certainly hard this apprehension with "Water for Elephants" (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2006), the sophomore offering of Sara Gruen's author-lover-lyricon. We are glad to have been proven wrong.

A historical novel, "Water for Elephants" displays the features of the unending term. It tells of a time when giant tents were raised to host such as a loud public field, before the advent of permanent theme parks, before resort hotels came up with their own residents acts.

"Water for Elephants" is about the other side of the curtain, the dark beyond where the performers disappear after the act. We read of their lives, the animals, and most especially the "roustabouts"—the men and the ex whose ill-fed backs the wheels of all circus behind the scenes activities turn, after the spotlights go out.

No holds barred

The result is a no-holds-barred account, told through the memories of Jacob Jankowski (Robert Pattinson), the main protagonist, now a 90-something as a home for the elderly. That the story is set in the sentinel of the Depression makes the grit more tangible, the hardship more severe.

Jankowski finds it most after his parents die in an accident, and he flees Cornell in sentiment. He finds himself running away with a circus train, and discovers quickly that the life of the navigator is not as glitzy and awesome on this side of the tent. But he manages to get hired as the resident animal husband, thanks to his course in veterinary medicine.

Jankowski is enticed more than the other roustabouts by the circus master, August (Christoph Waltz), because of his relationship with the show animals. This is also the reason he is held in high esteem by the star's wife, or as it's—Marlena (Reese Witherspoon), whom Shorty burns act to the main attraction of the circus.

If, their center is the elephant, Rosie, in whose successful performance all hath repose, in a story off-cast if the animal's anecdotes in the novel, Gruen says, are also based on real show elephants. But in the end it is the supposed tension among the three characters—Jacob, August and Marlena—that keeps the reader in row throughout the story.

"Constant tie" and "I Am Legend" director Francis Lawrence reduces the novel's core a period love story. The 120-minute final cut just does not develop the characters fully up to the epilogue, and even that is unnecessary, as it looks like a hurried attempt to fill in the gap between when the circus went belly up and the present.

Amazing story

Gruen's characters are deeper and more developed in the book despite the limited expansive because of the narration's shifts from past to present, and vice versa. The era is rife in the contrast. Even the animals jump out of the pages and romp and roar in the reader's imagination.

Pretty, specifically, had a difficult time—if he even had enough—portraying scenes the biggest murderous pachyderm August is loathed and feared for.

Pattinson has tried to show that he is a bankable actor outside the "Twilight" franchise. In "Water for Elephants," the actor again comes up short; his quirky facial expressions do not help.

Witherspoon is just too old.

But Hal Holbrook, who plays the old Jankowski, is a breeze. While the character in the book is rougher around the edges, Holbrook gives the old Jacob his own look spin, and it looks like he is not really leaving his—a nonagenarian with nary a care in the world, and it shows in the actor's eyes as well as in the total delivery of his lines.

But, who does not want to go the circus? Or, in this case, who would not want to have a story about it?

Minus the frills, and the merits of the film, "Water for Elephants" is still an amazing story from an old timer with firsthand testimony. It draws you, as a sitter does, because it piques your curiosity about what is inside.

Have we seen the 400-lb. carnivore? The dress preserved in formaldehyde? The beautiful woman who whispers in the lion's ear, beloved by all?

"Water for Elephants" offers that, and more, as it seems overall. Come one, come all.

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Alchemy in Joey de Castro's pottery

SOLO ACT: Joey de Castro's Bohusan engagement at Sagrad Bohusan/Manila

AT HOME

By Joe Pereyjohn
Contributor

JOEY DE CASTRO started making stoneware pottery in 2003 because of his love for caste and tradition.

Architectural interests and becoming frame, which he had worked on for a while, deepened a better home than the showy commercial pots that were available at the time.

He was a quick learner at the Pottery Alfredo Pottery School in Makati and soon he was turning out his own one-of-a-kind bowls and vases to grow his plants in. His approach was to carefully consider the forms of each particular cactus before making the shape of the pot to complement or contrast it in very much the same way an Ikebana artist would make a flower arrangement.

As one of his teachers, I was very impressed with this level of passion. It wasn't long before that same passion extended to pottery making itself, and he started turning out beautiful plates, bowls, vases and other storage functional work.

I'm reminded of the story of Komatsu, the famous Japanese chef who inspired the "Iron Chef" series. He began making pottery because he wasn't satisfied with the tableware around. He felt his special culinary creations needed worthy containers to serve them properly. Interestingly

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Alchemy in Joey de Castro's pottery

From page D1

...he became equally as even more famous as a pottery teacher with classes for over 20 years.

It's interesting how pottery goes hand in hand with other arts like cooking, serving food, containers for plants, flower arrangements, which should be perfect for Jo Castro's functional vision.

John T. Go Bio of the Ramon School has also agreed to do a classical style arrangement for the show. I think collaborations like this are going to be important in the future to get young people interested in flower arrangement and pottery.

Glazes are the main coating of glass pottery made in the final firing of their works. This is one item where Jo Castro excels and is showing himself to be an emerging master potter. He says from the technical aspect of ceramics involving math and chemistry or, as I prefer to call it, alchemy.

Joey seems to embrace it. This might come from his background in photography, which also has its technical side. He has had five photography exhibits in the past.

Like many of us, he prefers natural materials. Some of his favorites are pine cones from Baguio, mushrooms and more by his artist friends, and sea urchins from Pablo Cayetti's sweet kiln. I saw over 30 glass buckets in his workshop.

He has also begun experiments on the elusive and mysterious oil-spot glaze from ancient China, so beautiful but so difficult to make. To date, no Philippine potter has mastered it. My friend Anne de Dalmau once told me: "You have to have the right mind to make that."

Jo Castro will be showing some works done in the solo pressed in Clay, his first solo exhibit. Raku is a traditional Japanese technique of pulling red-hot, glowing works straight from the kiln and placing them in a container of sawdust to promote interesting and spontaneous color changes.

He has also been using paper clay, a mixture of clay and paper pulp which allows him to experimentally. Paste his sculptures. "Sayuri," he says. "Just 6-ft. fold, pouch, pouch." Raku is a relatively new technique here in the Philippines.

"With glazes containing cough study on here" allow Jo came up his appreciation clay and glaze-making.

Australia pottery fest

Many of the local potters, myself included, live in quiet rural surroundings far from Manila. Joey, however, is in the heart of the metropolis. His main-like workshop overpass points of the MRT, seventh, eighth and ninth floors of an apartment building in Mandaluyong.

He cleverly uses the space available, as one like the top of the elevator shaft, for storage, as the drying room for his works. His potter's wheel is usually on the rooftop overlooking an incredible view of the city.

I asked him if the Manila skyline had any influence on his work, and he said emphatically: "No, no, it's all about clay and mud, soil and stone. All natural."

The rooftop is also his runway for his cats. In the future, he intends to open up his workshop for students and interested individuals.

Last year Jo Castro was chosen to be the Philippine delegate to one of the most important international ceramic events, called Clay Energy, held in Australia every three years and organized by world-famous publisher and potter Janet Mansfield.

The five-day workshop was attended by 300 clay artists from around the world.

In the festival, Joey met Sandra Kirshenbaum, a Hungarian artist well-known for monumental clay works influenced by Henry Moore and Stonehenge. Joey said that made a strong impression, and on his return he began experimenting with purely sculptural, rock-like forms.

Jo Castro encourages artists, especially young ones, to go abroad and meet their peers. It can be a liberating experience. Glaze art to many pots clay artists around, but it's an important way to open up. It's not so much about learning new techniques as it is about seeing new styles and looking at things.

Jo Castro says the exhibit is still in a state of functional and sculptural works. We are excited to see the results of his latest adventures in clay.

"Recent Works" runs May 12-June 2 at Art Informel, 277 Connecticut St., Greenhills; tel. 0918-8992898, 7224813.

BLENDING Joey's skills are

HARVEST Piece of Sagada Kalinga Phyllis makes the final touch.

DUCK. Perfect flowers and plants give Jo Castro elegant work.

Visual Arts

Chabet at Magnet

Roberto Chabet's "Box Paintings" runs until May 28 at Magnet Gallery, Upper Ring, 20 McKinley West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City; tel. 3570197. www.magnetgallery.com.

"Box Paintings" was curated by Ming Hong Art Projects Unlimited as part of "Chabet: 50 Years," a series of exhibitions in various venues in Singapore, Hong Kong and Manila in 2010-2011 in celebration of Chabet's 50 years of pioneering conceptual work and his role in shaping Philippine contemporary art. E-mail chabet.50years@gmail.com or visit www.hongkongartprojects.org.

BY ROBERTO Chabet

BenCab print retrospective

"Bencab Graphics: A Print Retrospective" will open May 12, 6 p.m., in MCM Gallery, 2nd floor, 552 e-mail mcm_gallery@yahoo.com; www.mcm-gallery.com.ph; a book project of the National Committee on Art Galleries and Museums Committee on Visual Arts, the exhibit includes the most extensive outputs in the printmaking medium by National Artist Benedicto Cabrera. From the artist's collection of etching prints delivering the latest iconic images or portmaking in the Philippines.

It's city's most colorful and member this exhibit-setting combination of an obvious artist challenge the definitions of the medium and use, most likely the most ambitious under taking ever done by a Filipino artist," curator Ricardo de Ayala has found this artist's inherently brilliant Artist Jonathan Cleto's exhibit.

BY BENCAB

German multimedia exhibit on climate change at Ayala

Images of movement and the scene of climate change will be featured in "Transformation" (Gestalten Sie Veränderung), also presented by Goethe-Institut Philippinen, running May 10-20 at Ayala Ave. and De La Rosa St., Salcedo Park, Makati City; tel. 7577117 or e-mail info@philippinen.goethe.org.

The exhibit is composed of video, photography, and audio works by 12 international artists, engaging viewers through media to the current debate on climate change. On May 9, 3 p.m., at the Ayala Museum Lobby, a panel of environmental and related experts will discuss the resulting implications of extreme climate change.

'Monumental' at Manila Contemporary

"Monumental," featuring Mike Adino, Pen Bukaka, Elmer Borlongan, Abdiam Bondoc, Alfredo Esquillo Jr., Mark Justiniani, Joy Mallari, Tumbo Marcelo, Mayo Martin, Jose Santos III, opens May 14 and runs until May 28 in Manila Contemporary, 2nd Floor, Don Chino Roces Ave. Ext., Makati; tel. 8437278. e-mail info@manilacontemporary.com. It showcases the work of contemporary artists specially commissioned to make use of the expansive gallery space to create contemporary works of mid-proportions, giving additional to the gold standard in the handling of large-scale facets and complete conceptual form.

BY PAMA Flores

"MOTHER and Child (Gold)"

Marian exhibit at Galeria de las Islas

"FIRST and Sleeping Baby"

THE FEAST (2010) for Peace Foundation, with Galeria de las Islas, is sponsoring the Marian painting exhibit of Gigi Gallegos. Some of the pieces were inspired by Bhutan devotees and past and present scenes.

"After Easy Rhode" will be held at Galeria de las Islas in Intramuros May 16-June 10. Part of the proceeds will go to the charity projects of Pilosophers for Peace Foundation.

"FIRST Walk"

"RAPTURE"

'Circle of Life' by Jun Impas to open at White Cube

THE ARTIST resides of Cebu City, based resident Honorarian "Jun" Impas will be exhibited in "Circle of Life" at White Cube Gallery, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City; tel. 8167-0541 or e-mail info@whitecube.com.ph.

The paintings are thematically a...third—"Walk," "Eternal Feeding," "Rapture," "First Walk," "First Touches," "First Communion." They are charming and dignified to give a heartfelt rendition of the grand schemes of human existence illustrated by everyday Filipino moral scenes.

The paintings are themselves a...third—"Walk," "Eternal Feeding," "Rapture," "First Walk," "First Touches," "First Communion." They are charming and dignified to...

...story-sensitively portray a Hispanic's journey in that life.

Aside from figurative works, landscapes and still-lifes painted in the tradition of Cubism evoke Cubist use of colors and Picasso in Guernica, Impas has distinguished himself in portraiture.

"NIGHT MARKET II"

Iza Caparas, painter of the urban life

By Gary C. Ovalles
Correspondent

PAINTERS AND artists always underscore positively or reinvent our vision of the world. In Caparas' "Urban Life" offers a different vista from the brutal dichotomy in our sight, the abusive hierarchy of form over ground, lending us away from status, destruction of our milieu, and other acceptance of the other and of what is different.

"HUSTLE & BUSTLE"

"Hustle and Bustle" depicts the city with frequent passersby, either strolling aimlessly or purposely going back to their residences or workplaces.

One can never tell where or why these people are going because there is no sense in their direction. She renders depict the people in blue and impressions, intimating a form of invisibility, of being lost, and of obsolescence, quite typical of urban life, where everything is rushing our bodies and desires becoming commodity.

Marx would say everything that is sold melts into the air. This is true of our experiences in the city where daily life is punctuated by exchanges, by our efforts to produce and reproduce such value, and in the process left hanging whether the work put in words doing or the transactions at the end of the day are fair.

In "Night Café," Caparas disposes people on opposition merging with the buildings and shadows, and the viewer is given a distant perspective.

The ghostlike existence of people here is the very logic of capital accumulation. Jonathan Beller notes in his book "Acquiring Eyes" how we subsist evoke a visual reference point for Marx. In, and instead it is the traffic and trails that serve as landmarks, reminders of global forces that explode in all their tentacles arbitrarily in urbanity.

In "Night Market II" and "Rainbow," we see also the same saturation of phantasmagoric consumerism, an overkill as in Jean Baudrillard, a confessional euphoria associated with a kind of pleasure that is unconscious, a kind of suspension of emotions, and a kind of absence of responsibility. Her art points to the experience of revenge in the city to our hallucinations that reduce one world to two dimensionality, to an image, stripping away its social and its humanness and in a way subverting us into a state of contradiction and immobility.

As a painter of urban life, Caparas gives us a way of looking at things. In "Parade," we can see all the essence of city life brought about by the onslaughts of the capital, and yet this work is never sombre, but rather resonant in color, without hatred but in the art of resource, we condemning but cognizant of suffering.

She may be alluding to the brutal and resilient spirit we can all tap during crisis, the resilience spirit that animates us from time immemorial, and that still subsists and looms our attitudes and desires.

Gallery Mist at 4/F, Bldg. A, Ateneo Art Center, Ateneo de Manila University presents "Urban Life," May 14-20. Call 9300810.

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Tammy Tan's glass vessel art

"RING My Bell"

THE CENTER for Art, New Sciences, and Sustainable Development (Carnival presents "Moving Still," an exhibition of recent works by Tammy Tan, who made her first and jam in 2000 using glass paints, marine epoxy clay painted with acrylic, and added ornaments.

Each piece, she said, was created "during periods of vulnerability."

The glass vessels are now depicted with acrylic on canvas. Rendered in such a way that each receptacle is housed in its own private room, they are found to have embodied emotion.

Tan wondered if they would affect the audience in the same way that they moved her.

The exhibit is on view at LookingPoint Multi-Art Space, 2/L, Ebloque, at Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Call 810 2332.

"SUNKISSED"

Smart subscribers can star at Bieber concert

Fans of Justin Bieber can live their ultimate dream of sharing arrogance the same page and conversation through Smart Communications.

The leading wireless communications provider and also Justin Bieber fans to flash their photos, videos and on-site during Bieber's May 10 concert, through a live stream that will be displayed on the Araneta Coliseum Grounds - the venue for the Manila leg of the My World Tour.

Smart subscribers who will be at the concert grounds during the event may send their photos via MMS. On the MMS template, they are to type in text MESSAGE <space> <message> attach the photo and send to 0949.

The MMS photos that will be sent by the subscribers will be displayed in the official Smart Facebook Fan Page through LookShare provided by COMVERSE. LookShare is a mobile and web application that allows users to create their own photo streams for any occasion. Invite friends to share moments, view stream and watch everyone's photos live online.

Loverboys will also allow the photos sent through MMS or uploaded to the LookShare application page to display on the mini-LCD or Jumbotron screens at the venue. Users can get more information on LookShare by going to http://www.facebook.com/smart and downloading LookShare on their Apple iPhone, Windows Phone 7 or the latest Android smartphone. Smart offers a wide selection of Facebook-compliant devices including the latest devices such as the HTC Desire S (free at Plan 3000), Sony Ericsson Xperia Arc (free at Plan 3000) and the Samsung Galaxy Tab (free at Plan 3000). For more information on these plans, go to http://smart.com.ph/gadz.

LookShare will also enable Facebook users anywhere to follow the concert in real time via the live photo stream as well as to upload their own pictures into the stream. Furthermore they can share the live stream with their friends with one click by posting them on their own Facebook wall.

Bieber fans can also follow their idol on Twitter for only P10 per day. They can get 24 hour unlimited access to his Twitter feed by simply going to http://smart.com.ph/gadz.subscription.

For more information and to view their LookShare photostream, like the official Smart Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SmartCommunications.

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Republiq, Manila's premier nightlife destination, was the perfect setting for the unveiling of the Philippines' first transparent credit card targeted towards the young privileged market. The who's who in the Metro's social circle attended the event and enjoyed a night of pure fun, revelry and partying courtesy of Blue from American Express. DJ Mark Nicosia, Republiq in-house DJ, entertained the crowd with his signature club mix and spins. While Fil-American singer Amber Davis heated up the stage with her sizzling and fierce song numbers.

A toast for Blue from American Express: (L-R) Ophir Cumbo, Senior Vice President, BDO Consumer Lending Group Cards Issuing; Noriaw Hash-Kelly Tanchanco, Executive Vice President, BDO Consumer Lending Group Head; Karina Imam, Vice President cum Group General Manager, American Express Global Network Services Japan, Asia Pacific & Australia; James Younghusband, Georgina Wilson; Phil Younghusband; Rida Kalmoksan, Senior Vice President, Head of Global Network Services, American Express Japan, Asia Pacific & Australia; Nasreen Regala, First Vice President, BDO Consumer Lending Group Marketing Head

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Echo wins in Newport Beach fest

Cheek Factor

Pinoy filmmaker makes it to Sundance Script Lab

Mentors include Robert Redford and Sally Field

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

LAST year's Cinemalaya winner for best director and best film ("Halaw"), Sherwin Dayoc, made it to the Screenwriters' Lab of the Sundance Film Festival.

"Manta," a script he co-wrote with "Halaw" producer Lilit Reyes, was chosen for the five-day session/ workshop.

Zamboanga-based Dayoc told Inquirer Entertainment that he made it to the Script Lab "mainly because of 'Halaw,' which he submitted as a reel/portfolio.

"'Manta' is about a woman weaver who struggles to survive as she straddles a woman's land and the world of spirits.

"It was unexpected," Dayoc told the Inquirer. "We barely had time to beat the deadline. I'm thankful to Lilit and our script assistant Jobo Ocampo.

He looks at Sundance as "enhancer to prepare the stories of Mindanao" to a global audience.

Dayoc said: "It was inspired by my documentary, 'A Weaver's Tale.' I am happy that regional filmmakers are now active ... There are many gems outside of Manila."

Creative risk-taking

According to the Sundance website: The Screenwriters' Lab allows "independent scriptwriters to work intensively on their scripts with the support of established writers in an environment that encourages innovation and creative risk taking."

The workshops will be held in Sundance Resort, Utah, from June 25 to 30.

Dayoc is the only Filipino in his batch as most of the workshop participants are from the United States. Among the foreign participants are filmmakers from Mexico, Argentina, Israel and Russia.

The participants will be guided by creative advisors through one-on-one story sessions, according to Reyes.

Among this year's creative advisors are Sundance founder and actor Robert Redford, Oscar-winning actress Sally Field and "Twilight" director Catherine Hardwicke, among others.

"It'll be an exciting learning process," said Dayoc. "I can choose my mentor and the list reads like a 'who's who' in the US filmmaking scene."

"This is just the beginning of our script's journey," Reyes noted. "I know Sundance will take care of our baby and see it grow in to a fully produced film."

Noteworthy projects supported by Sundance Institute in the past were Darren Aronofsky's "Requiem for a Dream," Kim Stelly Peirce's "Boys Don't Cry," Debra Sallee's "General Idacius" and Quentin Tarantino's "Reservoir Dogs."

"IT WILL be an exciting learning process," says Sherwin Dayoc of the five-day workshop.

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'Body wave' is dance, says 'Batibot' producer

By Marinel R. Cruz

FEDY DE LOS Angeles-Ramirez, founder and executive producer of the children's educational show "Batibot," sees nothing wrong with the so-called "body wave" dance.

"It is a legitimate dance," Ramirez said of the number performed by a 6-year-old on the TV5 game show "Willing Willie," which created a controversy. "Children in public schools and daycare centers dance it all the time. Whether adults see it as striptease is a whole different matter."

Ramirez was among a group of consultants tapped by the network to help set guidelines on promoting saleable to shows that is preschool.

Critics of "Willing Willie" tagged the host's performance in the March 12 episode as a "macho dance." Sites reports described it as "simulated striptease."

TV5 called it "body wave," a dance that creates the illusion of a wave traveling through the body, from the head to the toes and back.

Part of Ramirez's work for "Batibot," a Philippine Children's Television Foundation Inc. (PCTVF) production, is to rate school, public, even hospitals in reach more people.

Nothing wrong'

"Body wave is the closest [step] of the kinetic," he said. "I see nothing wrong with it. Children on the streets and in all public school that I've visited include it in their [programs] because it's what they see on television."

Ramirez told business during a media gathering in Bang City.

"Batibot" began airing its second season on TV5 last Saturday 8:30 a.m.

"This season," Ramirez said, "every episode will be thematic. A show about vehicles, for example, will explain how important transportation is. He will also help kids cope with life's challenges, like natural disasters, illness and death. There will be an entire episode devoted to cooking, and this one economic and economic circumstances."

Ramirez added: "Those are all based on what is appealing and comprehensible to children of a specific age group....I.e.k. Kids 7 to 8 are also searching. Most importantly, parents are searching with their kids. 'Batibot' is a shared experience now."

New generation

After an eight-year absence, "Batibot" resumed broadcast on March 26, 2011. "We were worried about returning, however, we didn't want to rest on the old show's laurels. We had to know it, build and nurture a new audience. We are raising a new generation of 'Batibot' kids."

HUPPETS Mingming, Boku Mark Reeds, Gingging and Kapitan Boo with Ate Maya and Kaya (Yeo)

FEDY DE LOS Angeles-Ramirez, the kiddie show's founder and executive producer

New characters, like Ate Maya (Rabi Tendoza) and Kaya (Yeo Olivet Bellino), were introduced last season. They replaced Kara Hodge, Hodgie Pascual and Ate Gemma (Gemma Olaco), who endeared themselves to "Batibot" kid viewers in the 1990s. Pascua and Olaco sometimes appear as guest performers.

Missing Pong, Kiko

But the show's most popular muppets, Pong Pagong and Kiko Matsing, ceased appearing on the show due to licensing issues between PCTVF and Sesame Workshop, which co-produced "Batibot" until 1998.

"Today's kids hardly know about Eastern fruit. Missing Avis and Kiko Fruit Fruit. We want to give them more time to know these characters before we start introducing new ones," said Ramirez. However, he said he thrilled, he added, with a new muppet named Happy.

How different is "Batibot" from other locally produced kiddie shows? "It's all about enjoyment and how we communicate with children," Ramirez stressed. "We deal with kids as the intelligent human beings that they are. We talk to them in a language that we are confident they will understand."

Reheating Hotdog–before 'time runs out'

By Pocholo Concepcion

THERE hasn't been a proper Hotdog reunion since the band was left with just one original member—guitarist-vocalist Rene Garcia—who would play occasionally with various ensembles.

The last time we saw founder-mates sing, veteran frontcat first to join with his familiar onstage was more than three years ago. Fanatics looked so excited to play at that time, because he had just recovered from a life-threatening illness.

Alternately on an Dennis says, "the risk of [life] threat recurring isn't" is one of the motivations behind the reuniting Hotdog stint on May 20 at the ballroom of Bistro Thanyi Pavilion in Makati.

Although the band will be playing mostly three original members' Billie del Rosario, Dino Tornilla, Lorrie Ramos, it will be good to see vocalist Irma Muzzio (nee Muzzi Uhl) and the rest perform one all Hotdog repertoire.

The Bacolod singer up with Dennis reminisce via e-mail, where he extolled the band's rock 'n' roll roots and his songwriting style, which explained why many Hotdog songs are highly-musical and lyrical.

How did Hotdog come into Being?

Bill Del Rosario (who now lives in Hong Kong): Bill Del Rosario was a very young rock band trainer. Rolling Stones, Led Zep, Grand Funk, etc. I idolized it was formed. Stone was 14 then and I was 15.

The novelty of being young (and able) musicians clicked and the band was booked solid every weekend—for parties, in exclusive schools and for almost all the parties of Ferdinand Marcos' children.

We were also the entryway at the chariot [sic] of that time called Third Eye beside Lotus's Hotel, after losing with an intra-dorm on band called Children of Time.

When we were legal enough to travel, we got lucky. Ignorosoff Corp. (then the biggest hotel and restaurant owners in Hawaii) came to Manila to recruit for a band to be a contraction in Waikiki. They auditioned the top 20 bands in the country and chose Bad Sea. We performed for a year, and only Rene and I came back home. The other guys stayed behind, got married to Samoan chicks. (Our images died after a thousand bottles with passionate rosaries.)

Rene and I decided to form a new band. Initially we were talking with Boy Tanedag and Walter Celmanes of the Circus Band, but it fizzled. So we resorted auditioning. We had about 10 members in the beginning but the rest eventually remained down to us.

How did Ella and Rosario join the ranks?

I saw a big fan of a short-lived local band at that time called The Gad which had a female vocalist from Aloneland, Lola Alonzo. The effort novelty idea of having a female soloist was prevailing in my mind while we were forming Hotdog. One day we danced upon Ella who came to watch the rehearsals and when we made her sing, her voice spoke to us. [sic] So she became part of the band.

The guys in Hotdog were all from La Salle Green Hills and Ella was from Assumption. But was there a conscious effort to write songs that the "misses" could relate to, right from the start?

I wrote all the lyrics of Hotdog so I can only say that I did it with no conscious conclusion in mind and no calculated "marketing" goals. I made sure that I only wrote songs that I will enjoy listening to.

The first few hits, like "Save my Miss Universe" and "Pare Ko" sounded very pop, although the lyrics were quite visual and interesting. Where did the inspiration for some come from?

I hate predictability so I made sure that every line will sound like nothing people have heard before. I was doing it then. I'm still doing it now. I draw my inspiration from everything real life. Nothing made-up anymore.

"Himala" was a high point in the band's career and exemplified songwriting that, like good, classic literature, was full of action. Who took part in writing it and what thoughts of taping a jeepney busker's voice?

I wrote the song (unduly to Rene) and I had this idea of sending my sentiment to several banks (with a possible sound recorded in Quiapo—my left-over sampling) because an industry slump.

The band became known for wisely talking socio-musical trends like these, for instance, by coming up with songs ("Bonggat Ka Day," "Tanda Nakanglasod") that still packed from the eyes of the corporate groups. Honestly, did you enjoy that particular period?

It wasn't an enjoyable period for us because our roots have always been of the rock persuasion. Even our experiences during Hotdog school years (which we started in the country's capital of stuff like Talipapa and Cubao camps, Bella Feria and Pinto Alley). In the songs we created during that era can be considered parodies.

"Bula Bula Niga" was Sixto Wave and the sound was reminiscent of the 50s-60s. At that point in the 1980s, did music take a back seat because you, for instance, were immersed in advertising life?

I had been in advertising some ago. If I'm a copywriter at Philippine Advertising Counselors, where I created the break-through "O Among Ilanos—ha Ba Siya" [sic] campaign. But it was advertising that always took the back seat. Music always dominated my life. The only time I completely focused on advertising was when I became an expat, as executive creative director of Lintas and later FCB in Kuala Lumpur. This was a five-year gig.

My left hooked out in the early '90s and took a break, but started gigging again in 2004.

What's so special about this reunion concert, aside of course from three Metro-rokers not haven't seen in ages?

We were all not getting any younger and under threats of [TB] time running out. And since people have been clamoring for a reunion for decades, it was the opportune moment. Admittedly, we haven't performed with Jess Garcia and Rini Trinidad since the 80s.

On a personal note, [Still I am excited about Ella's last few voice two days before her hysterectomy, I won't let you with us to produce [Ella] had his fee people who bought tickets and who felt interested in the last minute cancellation. [Example: Giles Tavares bought more than 20 tickets because he loves Hotdog songs and he was looking forward to celebrating his wedding anniversary at the concert. Sonia Hong with Budget Commissioner Butch Abad whose wife Irma has voted for them song "Hot Job" ... as in Ella's outstanding BOSS rendition!"

What really happened to Ella?

I spent four months of my life [and a substantial part of my savings] to make the Ella concert happen ... I also wrote and produced a brand-new CD for her. Interest was overwhelming. And ticket sales were brisk. But for reasons unknown, she kept on cancelling her shows before the shows. I sacrificed my ego and provided the refund. I justified it as "God's will." No hidden advisers).

Have you patched things up with Miss Twardlie? What about Lorrie Ramos?

We've never had any quarrel with Lorrie or Miss T. [sic] We haven't come to see them much, which may have created the perception that there were things that needed to be "patched up." Like any band member, there is drama[tic] wanted to "fly away" and deserve new worlds. I patiently nurtured them to songwriting [and even people making] for several years. In fact, if you will check out the songwriting canvas, I encouraged them to hone their songwriting skills and even wrote and collaborated with them on the few songs that they managed to come up with.

Thirty years! The press release says Hotdog will be "marked up by young others, a member of The Eraserheads—is 'band you admired in one of your songs. Or is that all part of having fun in the dark?

It's not weird. I believe it shows the band's "young listener" and generosity. Any [thanks] we like the roots/basics behind The Eraserheads. We had been away for years [according to Ryan] to come back recently and needed to establish himself. Now though it would be a great idea to invite him to be part of the show to document how Eraserheads songs would sound like if interpreted by Hotdog. All for the fun of it—while helping a fellow musician.

HOTDOG in the studio in 1974 (top, from left): Lorrie Ramos, keyboards; Jess Garcia, drums; Ella del Rosario, vocals; Dennis Garcia, bass; and Max Tornilla, guitar. The musical band that has still no set May 14 at Dusit Thani Hotel (above, from top, from left): lead vocalists Jay Reyes, Pilar Dee, Dino Montes and Pia Tagata Tranbol. (Back row, from left): Dennis Garcia, guitarist-vocalist Rene Garcia and Jess Garcia.

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P24
CAKES. ROLLS. PASTRIES.

Jodi: Mum's the word

After the storm, she copes, keeping busy with a new soap and an international film

JODI Sta. Maria and son Thirdy

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ACTRESS Jodi Sta. Maria says she has no time to dwell on the negative—even those chismis column items following her separation from husband Parupil Lucman.

Asked how she is coping, Jodi told the heavens, quick on the draw: "Thank you for asking. I'm okay. Good things are coming my way. Inevitable." She is grateful for a solid support system. "I'm surrounded by caring people, my family and friends."

She is much too busy with promotion outings of the new ABS-CBN series "100 Days to Heaven," to get distracted by intrigues.

Also, Jodi graduated last month from high school at the Southville International School and Colleges in Las Piñas City. "I plan to start college this year and take up Medical Biology and Political Science," she said. She feels strongly about education: "I want to have something to fall back on, away from showbiz. Though I'm already working, I don't take that off my mind."

Likewise, she wants to set a good example for 5-year-old son Thirdy. The boy starts his first year in the art of "100 Days."

"Since he's in nursery [school], Thirdy accompanies me every where," Jodi said. "He has found a playmate in ['100 Days' co-star] Kyline [Alcantara]."

Should the oldest love team to follow in her footsteps and join the fun? "I will support his dreams. I just have one rule, that he finish school."

Jodi, nominated for an Urian best actress award by the local critics group for Jolina dela Ju's "Chassis," is poised to invade world cinema.

In the works is an international film that she will star in. "I'm not with the director and [also] permission from [talent management firm] Star Magic," Jodi said. "[Abel] told me that the director asked about me after watching 'Chassis' in the Pusan Film Festival."

They were supposed to start shooting last month, but the script is still being finalized. "It's a family drama," said Jodi, "but it's a bit dark."

Of course she's excited about it. "It'll be a new work experience. It's not every day that an actor is given a chance to work with a foreign production."

She's proud of "100 Days" as well. "It's important for me to do shows that espouse positive values. We in the media have a responsibility to provide viewers with quality entertainment. As a mother, I want my son to watch shows that are educational. Hindi lang bagbagan at patayan [not just violence and murder]."

She's inspired to work on the project with Cesary Reyes, who recently gifted her with "Stevie's Devotional Bible."

"I learn a lot about work and life from Tita Cesary," Jodi said.

E-mail: bayanisandiegojr@yahoo.com

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AQUAPURE

Divinations in new mentalist TV show

VIEWFINDER

Nestor C. Torre

OGIE Alcasid is hosting a previously unseen show on QTV 7 titled "Mind Master" that's making viewers sit up, watch and marvel.

The show's title says it all. Featured mentalist Nomer Linda Shows the audience members' feet as he makes one "divination" after another about guest stars and studies' secret thoughts, wishes and desires.

Last April 30, for instance, he correctly guessed or divined the unspoken wishes of one amazed guest after another, the quickly followed up on that feat with a visual challenge that involved his "reading" the image in guest Gloria de Castro's mind. Even as Gloria was sketching the images, Nomer was doing his own sketch. When the two images were put together, they were striking by, even startlingly, similar.

'Flat line'

Next, the mentalist demonstrated his "death-defying" ability to slow down his breathing until heart rate or produce a "flat line." Frankly, this wasn't as entertaining as his other gambits, particularly when he purposefully announced, "Tonight I will die for your entertainment." Oh, please don't. We can't take the responsibility!

How does the mentalist-gifted namesake do it? Other mental prestidigitators we've encountered, including armies of international tipsters, have confessed half the record: that there's method to the mental marvels they come up with—but, they never seem about to let the cat out of the bag. So, stop trying to figure things out and just enjoy the tantalizing trip while it lasts.

To make the show an even better viewing proposition, the mentalist should stop coming up with "unanimous" on what he's doing, and just focus on his amazing feats instead. It's Ogie who should do the mentalist-and lead us to make the process into even more dizzying.

We need more TV shows like "Mind Master" because they provide greater viewing

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e-mail feedback to [redacted]

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PAL JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEBOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHECHELI

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RHEE MACHINE — BY TAHIR ABRERA

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TALOOK — BY MARA COLL

ASTROGRAPH

BY FRANCIS DIDAS

THIS BIRTHDAY You have ideas. People expect you to take action, and you do. You frequently stand at the side of the underdog and if you feel it's appropriate, you'll lead a campaign on their behalf. Sometimes you have trouble/difficulty about your parents and establishment issues. Don't let your emotions get in the way of your relationships with others. Your lucky numbers are **Birthstone** are ruby and moonstone. Mars, Uranus, Mercury and Saturn are prominent in your chart for the coming year. Mars-Uranus energy can be explosive and Mercury-Saturn energy can be depressive. Your birthday celebrity is Mother Teresa, humanitarian.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Today is a much different day! You evolve/transform/shift. It's time to move on/evolve/shift, although this is a totally acceptable/good day for your kids. Expect new developments.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Family matters seem to be on the cosmic today. Nevertheless, you're also concerned with practical matters, including projects at home or talking out of a family member. Details!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This is a good day to collaborate with groups and friends, in particular you can make plans for upcoming events or social occasions with others.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This is an excellent day for business and negotiations. Although a job interview/ things/ incidents might arise. Be prepared for this.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You have a bit unserious today. Intuition/ Be Wise is in your sign. Nevertheless, discussions/ negotiations, dialogue with others/partners are ongoing. Someone/other could/likely be/attend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Research and investigations proceed properly today. Jobs/ work/ ego/ fatigue/ and go well today. You can/ may/ have/ work/ and needs to handle the/ responsibilities/ problems/ of/ and/ to/ at.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This is a lovely, social day although disturbances could/ may/ occur/ and deal with/ you/ the/ unexpected/ problems/ of/ and/ to/ at.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Hands at work. All/day/ will/ evolve/ are today. Your/ service/ routine/ tips/ and/ that/ so/ you/ at/ connected/ to/ dependable, reliable, and responsible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This is an excellent day to make plans for vacations in the future or for travel that is relaxing. Be cautious/ with/ your/ words and possibly children. Urge/ people/ not/ to/ distract today.!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Discussions about financial support/ by family issues/ support/ in/ collaborating/ with/ go/ well today. But a few tensions are likely. Nevertheless, it's nothing/ serious/ or/ traumatic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Unexpected news from siblings, neighbors or friends will surprise you today. Spontaneous/ short trips and conversations with others will be/ generated/ and/ interesting.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) This is a good day to work out at a/ the/ store. You're thinking a lot about/ issues/ and/ over/ then/ and you're full of thought/ now. Homeschooling ideas?

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

All the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at: www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
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5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Cove
5. Fender-bending rallies
10. Vacationer's aid
14. Ancient Asian
15. Theme, to Marx
16. Dog's doctor
17. Ocean or Augusta
18. Sharp
19. Sharks
20. Hummel/Owen creations
21. Hurricane, for one
23. Light source
24. Hurricane Andrew, for one
26. Ex-wife of Ike
27. Cruise
28. Dad's dad
29. Hearth warmer
30. Liberty
31. Decade
34. Ones ... who is one
36. Ancient Asian
37. Sharp
38. Beautiful by nature
39. Bring to a close, as in court
40. Sources of juicy gossip
41. Ms. Lupino
42. "Confirmed Bachelor" actor
43. Hurricane, for one
44. Like some hearty chowders
45. Mediterranean
46. Angel's "I" ... Mountains
47. Hurricane Ike, for instance
48. Mediterranean
49. Three-time Masters champ
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CHEER FACTOR

PAUL McCartney and Nancy Shevell

Ex-Beatle engaged

LONDON—Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney is engaged to girlfriend Nancy Shevell, his publicist said Friday.

McCartney, 68, started dating the 50-year-old New York socialite hotel heir[illegible] four years ago following his bitter split from second wife Heather Mills.

McCartney publicist Ivan Kyncl confirmed media speculation over a proposal to Shevell, but declined to give details. AP

Divinations in new . . .

From page F1

here. Tongentially, the show also reminds viewers that, on occasion, things are not what they seem, there's room in mind power than meets the jaundiced eye.

Some viewers may also be enticed to develop their own mental ability and unity, way beyond the minimal way that some experts say we use the power of our brains. So, we don't all have to end up as paranormal researchers, we just need to make better and more sensitive use of our own blind frontal.

But, no more "flat line" rapers, OK? The show is interesting enough without having to engage in such chaos like brinkmanship. Being the TV version in the production, Ogie knows better when enough's enough—and haven't-scream gimmicks and tactics are not exactly!

THIS MOVIE IS NOT YET RATED BY THE MTRCB

OPENS MAY 11

BASED ON THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING ROMANTIC NOVEL BY EMILY GIFFIN

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
2: THOR
3: THOR 3-D Digital 3D
4: TUMBUK
5: SCREAM 4
6: FAST FIVE
7: PAKI PAKI MY DR. KWAK! BEASTLY

GREENBELT 1
1: THOR
2: FAST FIVE

GREENBELT 2
1: THOR
2: FAST FIVE 3D
3: SCREAM 4
4: THOR (3D)
5: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: FAST FIVE
2: THOR Digital 3D
3: THOR
4: SCREAM 4
5: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: FAST FIVE
2: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
3: THOR
4: TUMBUK

MARQUEE
1: FAST FIVE
2: THOR (3D)
3: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
4: TUMBUK

MARKET! MARKET!
1: THOR (3D)
2: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
3: SCREAM 4
4: FAST FIVE
5: THOR
6: TUMBUK
7: PAKI PAKI MY DR. KWAK!

TRINOMA
1: BEASTLY FAST FIVE
2: THOR
3: THOR (3D)
4: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
5: TUMBUK
6: SCREAM 4
7: FAST FIVE

For ticket reservations or purchases, text SureSeats to 2910 (for Globe and Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777.
*Please inform agent at all Sureseats users. Purchases open for 48/two cardholders only.

MOVIE SPECIAL

OPENS MAY 11 AT GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 2 & TRINOMA CINEMAS

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
Ayala Atrium Activity Center
May 8 & 15 Activity Center

GREENBELT
Greenbelt Activity Center

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Activity Center

BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
Activity Center

MARKET! MARKET!
Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Activity Center

TRINOMA
Activity Center

MARQUEE
Activity Center

MALL SPECIAL

ACOUSTIC ALFRESCO NIGHTS

PRINCESS – APRIL 27
JOHNOY DANAO – MAY 4 & 18
JAJANNE – MAY 11 & 25

glorietta · GREENBELT · ALABANG TOWN CENTER · AYALA CENTER CEBU · MARKET! MARKET! · Bonifacio High Street · TriNoma · MARQUEE

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2345

Celebrities' favorite memories with mom

MY LATE great mom was the gift I was here with. To this day, people still call me "Anak ni Inday Badiday" and it makes me feel so proud. If I could choose to be anyone else in this world, I would still choose to be her daughter.

As a post-Mother's Day thought, I asked some celebrities about their favorite memory with their moms as kids and as adults. Mine would be the ladies' lunch I took up under my mom when I was young. Not too many people know that before she joined show biz, my Ma was a ballet teacher.

As a grown-up, I'll forever treasure all my trips abroad with her because that was the only time she became a "normal" mom—away from the madness of showbiz around.

Happy Mother's Day to all moms out there (whether biological, surrogate or even sugar mommies, hehe). Take a bow for the tough balancing act we've instinctively mastered. Yet hunting how we love even the unlovable and forgiving even the unforgivable. That's on the job description of motherhood. It may be high-maintenance but it is also highly rewarding.

Gay Dillon: "As a kid, what stands out in my memory is how we would wear bargain dresses but look like clothes and shoes for me. Despite the limited budget we had, my mom would always succeed in making me look worth like a million dollars. We even braved chaos-filled buses for me in the Baguio market and the sale for my 25 pairs of shoes scattered from Farmer's Market Cubao. As an adult, I can never forget the first Sap we had when I was loved from positively in Iloilo. There is no match for a mom's unconditional love."

Marian Aguilar: "My mom's cooking is the best. Since I live on my own now, I miss the smell of her cooking when I wake up. My favorite food will always be there anytime of the day. My mom sacrificed a lot for us. We love and gentleness made me and my siblings better people. She is the source of our strength."

Bret Ojeda: "As a kid, I cherish the memories of watching my mom sing at the wedding of my Tita. I was a fan of my mom's singing. She was the one who influenced me to love music. As an adult, I will never forget the day she finally allowed me to join the band scene."

Dingdong Avanzado: "My fondest memories was the time my late daughter Ria was a year old. Back when I was a kid, which I still do now during fiesta, I would go to my grandma's house. That's why I don't get to see her much because she lives in Iloilo. That's why I don't see her much because she lives in Iloilo. That's why I don't see her much because she lives in Iloilo. That's why I don't

LEARNING
Editor Cleda Banal-Formoso
Email: learning@inquirer.com.ph
Fax: (02) 4197567
Smart: (0920) 3824081

Journalism workshop for teachers

Inquirer in Education invites public school journalism teachers and/or advisers of school papers to join our free journalism workshop on May 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (venue TBA). Text: SIGN ME UP <your name, school and school address> to 0918-3824081 or e-mail same to learning@inquirer.com.ph to reserve a slot.

PERFECT ONE

A record yet to be broken

Editor's Note: In a recent note sent my way about John Gabriel Pelias, the math major who graduated from the University of the Philippines in April with a general weighted average (GWA) of 1.016, there were three others named among the highest grade achievers in UP's history: Exequiel Sevilla, who had a GWA of 1.0 upon completing his Bachelor of Science in Commerce degree in 1927, Esmeralda Ramona Avendaño (1.01, BS Biology, 1982). What has happened to time but not brightness of students? Has thought and craft been drawn and set aside? Or, might genius mean a difference in their careers. The first in this series is on Exequiel, written by his daughter Aida Sevilla Mendoza, who happens to be a columnist for Inquirer's sister-sheet, Inq7.

By Aida Sevilla Mendoza

WHEN MY father, Exequiel Iranzo Sevilla, was still alive, he never bragged about his 1.0 average at the University of the Philippines, where he graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Commerce in 1927.

But for 1.0 coverage, registered 84 years ago, has yet to be equaled at the UP.

When I was a high-school then college student struggling with algebra and geometry, the feat did not quite matter so much as his helping me with my mathematics homework.

But now, more than two decades after his passed away (he died in 1981), I am able to appreciate his scholastic achievement at the state university and long about it.

My cousin, retired Supreme Court Justice Adolfo Azcuna, once set a test: He asked recently what his mother's (my father's sister) name was to tell him that UP would just draw a straight line down Papa's report card to record his flat 1.0 grade in every subject every summer, every year.

Papa's reputation preceded him that, even before his graduation from the university, he had been appointed an executive examiner by Dr. Vicente Ilustre, the first Filipino actuary.

After UP, Papa was sent as a government scholar in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He became friends with young lawyer Lorenzo Tañada, who was investing on the same ships as Dr. Ilustre's sons and founded the Ilustre school. Tañada would become a senator and one of the country's most respected statesmen and nationalists.

After graduating from Ann Arbor with a Master of Science in Actuarial Mathematics degree in 1929, Papa trained for one year in the United Insurance Co. in New York City.

Upon his return to Manila, Papa, one of the first four Filipino actuaries, was appointed actuary of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner. In 1936, he became an associate of the Casualty Actuarial Society.

He left government service in 1939 to help establish the National Life Insurance Co. in Manila. In 1947, President Manuel L. Quezon appointed him to the first board of directors of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

After World War II, Papa gave the best years of his life to the National Life Insurance Co., first as actuary, then as general manager and finally as president and member of the board. During this time, he also taught math at UP Far Eastern University and the University of the East.

After his retirement in 1979, National Life retained him as consultant.

THE MATH who married Susana Gaston and made a life-long career of actuary.

WITH friends at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he took his Master of Science in Actuarial Math on a scholarship.

IN THE KNOW

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines follows a grade point system made of 1.00 (1.0), in which 1.00 denotes excellence (equivalent of 97-100%) and 5.00 is an automatic fail.

A student who finishes with a general weighted average of 1.75 is highest graduates from UP with honors, ranging from cum laude (1.4000 to 1.75), magna cum laude (1.2000 to 1.45) to summa cum laude (1 to 1.2000), the university's highest honor.

UP uses an absolute minimum cut-off in determining the honor grade (excellent range.

Inquirer Research

Source: UP Guidelines, UP Admission and Registration Section and UP Min/Oth Records, up.edu.ph

Problem-solving made easy in upgraded engineering lab

By Tara Quimando

WHAT happens inside the Ateneo de Manila University's engineering laboratory has a lot to do with club.

It could mean the difference between survival in the Laguna Lake.

In the lake, student-designed devices are monitoring dissolved oxygen in the water—considered vital for fish's survival. It is not exchange point area, a laboratory that provides students the right tools to turn their ideas into reality.

Now AdMU's School of Science and Engineering (SOSE) teaching laboratory will allow students even more opportunities to develop their ideas into promising solutions for various problems with some $57,000 worth of the latest test and measurement hardware and graphical programming software from the American company National Instruments (NI).

AdMU Associate professor Nathaniel Libatique, chair of SOSE's Department of Electronics, Computer and Communications Engineering, said NI had a very good software platform that set a global engineering standard. "They [NI] have software and modular hardware that allows you to design (quicker) solutions very quickly and the world's ended, it could actually be [can use," Libatique said.

NI's Mair and Zegas

As part of its iTeams NI initiative, a global endowment program for engineers initiated two years back, NI gave the AdMU SOSE $45,000 worth of equipment, among the world's topnotch engineering tools used in industry.

Ben Zegas, NI senior vice president of sales and marketing, said in a press conference, "We make tools, we don't make solutions. We make the building blocks [tools to modular hardware and in this rapid development software environment.

Zegas said they put the building blocks in the hands of customers who worked out the solutions. "They could be for smart phones, audio and video, Bluetooth, all these things that have to be tested and the device is put in a box," he added.

NI equipment at the AdMU include the LabVIEW software, widely used in gaming, audio processing, wireless and network technology; and several training hardware that would allow students to test a range of innovations.

Libatique said AdMU engineering students had designed technologies for automotive catchment, wastewater filtration, telemedicine and even blood pressure monitoring.

"The lab is designed to enhance the learning experience of the students

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

GCIC responds to the need for organizational psychologists in the business sector

AS BUSINESS and commercial establishments mushroom within the BGC in Taguig City, businessmen have realized that in order for their businesses to prosper, successful marketing and sales, financial management, and operations are not sufficient. Understanding that human [illegible] and finances are the most valuable assets, businesses are now giving importance to employee communication and working relationships as key contributors to company productivity.

If you have an interest in psychology as well as business, you may find a match with a career in organizational psychology. The career is a perfect blend of the two fields. As a response to this growing interest, Global City Innovation College, a progressive college at the heart of BGC, has begun offering bachelor's degree programs focusing on Organizational development in 2011 that aims to provide an understanding of how human behavior shapes businesses and drives them through innovations.

Global Psychology (organizational) plans to highlight: (1) Core competencies that follow a business track for students interested in psychology-driven aspects of a business, such as human resources, management, leadership development, and marketing. (2) Subjects in human development and psychological methodology combined with management studies to prepare you for a career in human resources, training, self-understanding, and management.

Founded in 2003, Global is a full-fledged college that offers degree programs in Business (major in Marketing, Finance, and HR), Education (major in Early Childhood, Secondary Education, English or IT/ICT), Nursing, Information Technology, Tourism, Hospitality Management, as well as technical-vocational programs in Caregiving and Culinary Arts. Due to its commitment in offering industry-responsive programs, alongside Psychology (Organizational), Global also plans to introduce programs in Medical Technology, Accountancy (3 years) and Accounting Technology.

"If you enjoy the freedom of a dynamic and flexible learning environment, then Global is the right fit for you," says Bill Adelson, Global's head of marketing. "Workplace internships, international exposure, and real-life activities in collaboration with the industry are ever so the Global student's life-long learning," Adelson adds.

Engr. Michael Tan, Global's president, summarizes Global's edge as follows: with and without location with great facilities; exclusive industry-responsive programs (curricular innovations that develop the hard and soft skills needed by the industry); highly-qualified, industry-seasoned faculty; exciting and vibrant student life and surprisingly affordable course fees. "With all these, Global is indeed a 'Wise Investment in education,'" exclaims Tan.

PERPETUAL ALTAS IS THE HOST OF 87TH NCAA SEASON

Sol Mercado, Malcolm, UP-NSO, Frank Cruz, Malcolm, SSC-R, Efren Guiam, Malcolm, (RU) Henry Abiada, Malcolm, CSB, Dr. Reynaldo Vea, president, MR1, Agustin Hipolito, VP for IT system, JRU, representing Dr. Vincent Ataata of JRU.

CEU Scorpions named Nuazcu overall champions

AMASSING a total of 108.5 points, Centro Escolar University was hailed as this year's National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities overall champions. The CEU Scorpions came out strong in all events of the league that included Basketball, Volleyball, Chessing, Chess, Track and Field, Swimming, Billiards, Table Tennis, Badminton, and Tae-kwon-do. CEU bagged three championships (Chessing, Swimming - Women, and Table Tennis - Women) and consistently placed in the top 5 in other events.

PSBA enrollment ongoing

THE PHILIPPINE School of Business Administration is enrollment for school year 2011 to 2012 is now ongoing. They offer courses such as Bachelor of Science in Accountancy (BSA), Accounting Technology (BSAT), and Business Administration (BSBA). They are accepting enrollees for Bachelor of Science in Business Administration major in Financial Management; Human Resource Development Management and Marketing Management. They also offer Master of Business Administration Master in Business Administration (MBA) and Doctor in Business Administration (DBA). For other inquiries, please contact (632) 735- 1303 (632) 735-1304, (632) 735-1305, (632) 735-1348, fax numbers: (632) 735-1384, (632) 735-1414-(632). Archived http://www.psba.edu.ph.

Feati student 4th placer in GE Board Exam

FEATI UNIVERSITY with its long-standing reputation of producing excellent Engineering graduates is proud of its current batch of successful boardpassers. A Feati University Engineering graduate, Mark Wesley Tadeshi Dalida, placed 4th while 15 other Feati Engineering graduates passed the Geodetic Engineer Board Exam. Results also known as the Geodetic Engineer Licensure Examination, Dalida's 4th placing is impressive in that he joins the Top 10 Mindfuls as only comprised of UP Diliman graduates. While Dalida landed in the elite Top 10 list, his co-passers also scored successfully as they ranked their way to the 15th spot. The successful passers - 400 who took the examination given by the Board of Geodetic Engineering at the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) in Manila this September 2010. Overall, the board passers comprised 38.6% of the total population of the examinees.

UP Mindanao's 14th Commencement Exercises

UP MINDANAO'S Class of 2011 had a total of 787 graduates on its 14th Commencement Exercises, led by BS Applied Mathematics magna cum laude Maria Anela Ilyell Limpoco and BS Agribusiness Economics magna cum laude Gregorio Jedidiah Eliarte Jr. and twelve cum laudes. The commencement speaker was architect Jeremy Ong Jr., Bayanihan UP Men BS Architecture Class of 2000s. His address was titled "Ang Pinoy Henyo at Pinoy Henyo sa Tech: Architect Sandino, in his address to the graduates, said "As an architect I will be here ...as a consultant who will help you design your own roadmap. And its accomplish the list me ask you: 1) How do you define success? 2) Do you know what you want? 3) What motivates you? 4) What makes you happy?" 5) What are you willing to sacrifice to achieve success? The answers to these questions should help you decide and design your own roadmap."

Abunda receives master's degree from PWU

TWO YEARS ago in May, top interviewer host Eugene "Toy" Abunda took center stage and received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Communications/Arts center the Corporate Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (Bleap) in ceremonies held at the Philippine Women's University, Taft campus, Manila. Recently, on the same stage and in academic gown, witnessed by close friends and associates, Abunda obtained his Master of Arts in Communication Arts from PWU board chair Dr. Helena Z Benitez and president Francisco Benitez, assisted by dean Dr. Amelita Gastian and registrar Lilia Pedrosa. Having completed his undergraduate course and master's degree with distinction, he is now setting his sight at getting a doctoral degree.

Ateneo conference features Six Thinking Hats

DR. EDWARD de Bono's Six Thinking Hats also center stage in the conference entitled "NETS for Higher Order Thinking Skills" set to be held at the Ateneo de Manila University on May 26 to 11. The theme of the conference is "Critical and Creative Thinking and More... Doing the Six Thinking Hats." NETS for HOTS will also feature senior educators who will present strategies on how student's thinking skills can be developed through different subject areas. The conference will also have sessions for parents to let them gain insights on what they can do to enhance the thinking abilities of their children. School leaders, teachers and parents - people who have a direct role in the development of young people's thinking abilities - are among the target participants of this three-day conference. For registration, contact the Conference Secretariat on Rinka Billena at landline: 426 6001, landline: 426-6001 local 5811; and e-mail address: hatsforthot@gmail.com. Visit www.ateneo.edu for more details on NETS for HOTS.

New CCP courses spark interest

THE ADMISSIONS Office of the Central College of the Philippines continues to receive a steady stream of inquiries regarding it's four-year Radiologic Technology course, which is being offered for the first time this year. The same been claimed is also noted for the Tourism Management course and Hospitality Management course (majors in Hotel Management and Culinary Arts), both four-year courses, as well as the seven-month Computer course. Acknowledgments Carlos L. Reyes, head of the Admissions, Placement, and Retention Office and a member of the CCP Board of Trustees, reported a jump in walk-in as well as call-in and e-mail inquiries regarding these courses.

UST hosts International Philosophy Congress

IN LINE with its 400th founding anniversary, the University of Santo Tomas Department of Philosophy will host the first ever International Philosophy Congress on May 20 to 28 at the University of Santo Tomas. A novel befitting theme - Thomism and Asian Cultures: Celebrating 800 Years of Dialogue Across Civilizations, the confab will convene participants from some 26 countries. Eleven plenary speakers representing four International Philosophy Institutes will join the UST Graduate School in the International Philosophy Congress. The convenor of the said congress is Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Du Toit publishes, said http://usthl800philosophy.org on request by e-mail at ust.800philosophy@gmail or register at the Department of Philosophy, University of Santo Tomas, Rm. 103 Main Building, España, Manila. Options for online registration at the website or onsite registration are conveniently available.

Jupi elevates Miriam College to Hall of Fame status

MIRIAM COLLEGE'S Entrepreneurship students made history by winning the Junior Achievement of the Philippines Inc (Jupi) competition for the first time in its thirty-one years of existence. On March 25, Thursday, their victory is a first of its kind in the 41-year history of Jupi Philippines, elevating the school to Hall of Fame status. With this historic win, Jupi is preparing a different level of challenge for Miriam College this coming school year, says Jupi executive director Kristina Alegandres. The school bagged its third consecutive win with its dual-function footwear called Slip 'n Shoe which converts from a closed shoe to a slipper. It bested 40 other colleges and universities all over the country including UP and UST. Jupi is the world's largest and fastest-growing non-profit economic education organization. Every year, it holds a competition among its 40 member-schools where students learn to put up an actual mini-company and experience operating an actual business enterprise for over 10 months. The school only joined the annual competition four years ago.

7 BIG ideas to combat poverty

SEVEN FINALISTS have been chosen to vie for the Breakthrough Innovation Grant (BIG) of The Fledermaus Foundation, Seven Fund, and the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P). BIG awards up to $20,000 as seed money to DMCI with the "most innovative business ideas that will have an impact on poverty alleviation in the Philippines." The seven finalists are: 1. "Bottle School Project: Grassroots Contractors" by Illac Diaz; 2. "Coco-Net Composite Bonanza Plan" by Teodoro Acharon-an, Fajo Magnino, Tubbs Hasp, and Ferdy Pernett; 3. "Gliconomics: The Business of Nation Building" by Gliconomics International Inc; 4. "Hydrogen, an Environmentally friendly Substitute for Wood" by Haseeb Claudio, Anthony Salvani, Morgan Medina, and Bryan Bevans; 5. "Let this Land be Free: The Poor as Engaged in Solar Energy" by Crescente de los Reyes; 6. "Money Bangs Obedience: Helping Communities through Sustainable Livelihood Projects" by Alexis Dizon-Antonio; and 7. PEDBest Venture, a Health EAP Initiative" by Kabuhayang Galing sa Pinoy Partnership (Peers for Positive Living). The finalists will submit another set of requirements due June 15, and the grand prize winner/s will be announced July 15. For more information, visit www.breakthroughinnovationgrant.com.

Trillanes pays homage to alma mater

ADDRESSING THE newly graduates at the recent high school commencement exercises at Angeleom College, Senator Antonio F. Trillanes III urged students to be responsible members of the community in turn-values. Sen. Trillanes a graduate of Angeleom College batch 1987 visited the familiar halls for congratulate the new batch of graduates of the ever-graded system. "Bonny" fondly called by his classmates and teachers, noted his values were instilled in him by the institution. "Twenty-four years ago, I graduated from this very same grounds and I am proud to say that what I've learned from Angeleom College forms part of what I am today. The values which were encapsulated by the three words: Justice, Charity and Fortitude are the words I still live by so far, up to this day," Sen. Trillanes charmed in his heartwarming speech before the graduating students. Lauded with appreciative, Sen. Trillanes finished his speech by urging the graduates to serve our country. "Some day once you have succeeded in life, share your blessings, give back to your family, give back to your community, and also most importantly give back to your country." Sen. Trillanes stressed.

GRADS! A (left) and fourth year (right) national finals winners Rank Ong-Chua, Cervenal, Laganda, Sotelo-pacia and Ogana.

Decade-old math fest going strong

NOW IN its 10th year, the Math Challenge held its national finals recently, capping a three-month long competition, participated in by more than half a million students.

The competition is jointly underwritten by Metrobank Foundation Inc. (MBFI), Math Teachers Association of the Philippines (MTAP) and the Department of Education (DepEd).

In the ninth grade and fourth year high school levels, 58 students from 37 public and private schools across the country topped the regional eliminations in advance to the national finals. Of the 37 schools, 35 were in the competition for the first time, perhaps a sign that math-intensive teaching and learning in the Philippines were improving.

MBFI president Aniceto Sobrepeña said, "we have implemented this competition to motivate us we want to challenge the students' math skills and develop their self-confidence and, at the same time, reward them for their accomplishments. A little competition into making students to pursue achievement."

Winners

In the national finals, the ninth grade and fourth year students competed in individual and team categories. The individual competition consisted of written and oral rounds. The team competition was solely oral, with two students per school trying to do calculations and solve problems quickly and accurately.

In the oral round, participants were asked to answer questions either within 15 seconds (mental calculations), without pen and paper), 30, or

60 seconds (both with pen and paper).

In the Grade 8 individual category, Adrien Reginald Sy of St. Jude Catholic School (SJCS), Ramon Galvez III of Iloilo Central Commercial High School and Virgilio Bedar Jr. of Leyhens Elementary School in Calamba City were first, second and third, respectively, aside from medals and trophies, Sy received P125,000, Galvez, P60,000, and Dalay, P15,000.

In the Grade 6 team competition, Bernice Joy Li and Dominic Christian Ong of Uno High School were the gold. Vince Benedict Say and Adrian Reginald Sy of SJCS bagged the silver. Anne Sofia Serrano and Harry King Jr. of Ateneo de Davao University Grade School received the bronze. The top team received P50,000, the second place, P40,000, and the third place, P30,000.

In the fourth year individual category, Cornelio Dominic Lee of SJCS, Marion Dale Mallari of Gregorio Perfecto High School in Tondo, Manila, and Christoper Encera of Notre Dame Mlang Regional High School in Cotabato City were first, second and third, respectively. Lee received P50,000, Mallari, P40,000, and Encera, P30,000.

In the fourth year team competition, Dale Wilmar Garcia II and Ismael Sy of Philippine Science High School in Quezon City won the gold, Mary Lucelle Saba and Zephan Regner of Xavier University High School in Cagayan de Oro City, the silver, and Paul Rod Arboleda and Kevin Jhon Cleofilopez of Lahar Dela High School in Tondo, Manila, the bronze. The first place team got P150,000, the second place, P90,000, and the third place, P60,000.

Fourth year questions

I was privileged to serve as head judge in the fourth year high school individual and team oral competitions. My fellow judges, diverse professors from Mindanao and Northern Philippines, and I were impressed by the math acuity of the participants.

Here are samples of the questions they faced, with the given time limits.

• (15 seconds) A parabola and a circle are drawn on a piece of paper. How many regions do they divide the paper? Answer: four

• (15 seconds) Two bullet trains are each traveling toward each other at 100 kilometers per hour. A passenger in one train notices that it takes five seconds for the other train to pass him. How long is the other train? Answer: 0.5 kilometer

• (15 seconds) What is the measure of the smaller angle between the hour and the minute hands of a clock at 3:30? Answer: 105 degrees

• (30 seconds) The proportions of milk and water in three containers are 2:1, 3:2 and 2:3. A mixture composed of equal quantities of all three samples is made. What is the proportion of milk and water in this mixture? Answer: 5:4

• (30 seconds) What number should be subtracted from $x^3 + 4x^2 - 7x + 12$ if it is to be divisible by $x + 3$? Answer: 42

• (30 seconds) A group of students can do a piece of work in 24 days. If they can work for 10 days more than they actually do, it will take 30 days to complete the work. How many people actually worked on the job to complete it? Answer: 18

• (60 seconds) In triangle ABC, let M be the midpoint of AB, and let K be an interior point such that segment CK bisects angle ACB and segment AM is perpendicular to segment CK. It is given that segment AC measures 18 centimeters and segment MK measures 3 centimeters. What is the length of segment BC? Answer: 34 centimeters

• (60 seconds) If the quadratic equation $x2 + (4 - k)x - (k + 1) = 0$ has two roots (but differ by 1), what are the possible values of k? Answer: 5 and -1

• (60 seconds) The question (60) is defined by the formula $n(n) = n2 + 1$ n, where n and h are real constants. If $n(3 = 7$ and $n5 = 95$, what is $n6$? Answer: 102

Ian Jose L. Garces and Soledad A. Ulep were judges in the individual written competition for fourth Grade 6 and fourth year. Judges in the Grade 6 oral competition were Wilfredo Dimacali, Angel Antonio Lagarde, Antonio Lagarde, MTAP president Jo Rominada, Ceres Ball, FMM, and MBFI executive vice president Mona Ong-Chua.

E-mail the author at bisadeak@yahoo.com.

School offers scholarships to mark 10th anniversary

BELTRAN-KNIGHT International School (BIS) celebrates its 10th year of service and providing quality education by offering scholarships to qualified middle and high school (Grades 7-11) applicants.

Applicants for the scholarships, which are also BIT way of giving back to the community, should submit their transcripts of records, certificates of good moral character, two recommendation letters and two 2x2 ID photographs.

Brittopolis International School, which is committed to molding future leaders and entrepreneurs, believes that participating in the global community is one way to develop a more open, inquiring and compassionate mind for effective leadership.

In January high school students participated in the Harvard Model Congress Asia (HMCA), a government simulation conference. High school students from around the world addressed challenges facing modern governments. BIS students joined the Lobbyist and World Trade Organization committees, where they discussed and debated government policies, proposals and current socio-economic issues.

The Grades 5-7 students went on a field trip to Singapore and saw different cultures.

For the coming school year, there are plans for student exchange programs with other international schools.

Brittopolis International School is a candidate for accreditation in WASC (to the United States Western Association of Schools and Colleges) and is a member of the Council of International Schools. Enrollment for preschool, grade school and high school is ongoing. Summer programs are also being offered this month.

Visit Brittopolis International School's website www.brittopolisschool.com or call 6330881 or 427-8020 (2747) for more information.

Problem-solving . . .

From page 6

through projects-based and experiential hands-on learning," said Celso Co, e-SSE professor.

"The use of the laboratory facility and equipment is aimed to supplement the current curriculum and create a more engaging learning and coaching environment in which practical training is used to develop the students into more globally competitive engineers," Co said.

While AC supports engineering laboratories in other Philippine universities, the ASMC laboratory is the first to allow small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to test out their designs.

"It gives the entrepreneur the ability, for free or almost free, to develop their solutions," said Chancellor Nato, NI managing director for Southeast Asia.

NI, on almost $1.2 billion (US$26 million) revenues last year, has partnered with universities in developing countries in Latin America and parts of Asia for the Planet NI initiative. In hopes of "empowering engineers and students to achieve economic prosperity and sustainable development through technology access and education."

Nato said the company was keen to pursue similar partnerships with other Philippine universities and SMEs as part of the Planet NI mission.

"Buoyed by the successful partnership with ASMC, we have plans in the immediate horizon to identify more academic institutions or local small and medium enterprises to launch similar Planet NI initiatives in the Philippines and around the region," Nato said.

Advocacy for teachers makes mark

LABAY GURO, a project of PLDT Smart Foundation, has won several awards for its efforts to help improve education in the country on a sustainable way.

The program started in 2007 when employee volunteers at PLDT Muntinlupa Club Inc. thought of helping alleviate poverty by improving school education through a program that will help teachers teach better.

The idea was that one good and well-motivated teacher could influence hundreds, even thousands of students.

Hamstrung by innovative partnerships and the creative use of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Group's resources, Labay Guro projects (202 centers of six core elements [1] educational grants, (2) training (3) teachers' rebate cards, (4) livelihood, (5) broadbanding and computerization of public schools and (6) housing.

The foundation made 20 core of its flagship programs.

Under the program, college students taking up education get scholarships that cover tuition and other fees, and includes a modest monthly allowance. Starting with 15 scholars in 2007, the program had 200 scholars and 25 partner schools in 2010, she said.

It received recently six Award of Merit during the annual Anvil Awards that recognizes excellent public relations programs and tools that support and encourage good relations and genuine service for the society.

Labay Guro has also won a Gold Quill Award for excellence in communication management for projects aimed at promoting social and economic development.

The program aims to have 470 scholars by 2013-2014, with five scholars per year in every province.

A partnership with Smart Infinity ensures scholars get their allowances. PLDT SMS business clients have also sponsored scholars.

PLDT Vibe has given selected teachers from public schools Android tablets to improve their English. With the assistance of PLDT's ISO-certified human resources department, scores of families benefited from one of the best teaching methods and e-learning modules.

Pocpoc, an affiliate of PLDT, allows Labay Guro to use its platform to teach teachers on computer use, particularly Bluetooth applications. So far, more than a thousand teachers nationwide have attended one or all seminars under the program.

Labay Guro Teachers' Trifecta Card is a discount card that can be used to purchase goods and services from partner establishments like SM Department Store, National Book Store, 80 Philippines, Burger King, Enchanted Kingdom, Bounty, VillMan Computers and PC Express.

Special activities are organized during Teachers' Week such as special lunches and movies by partner establishments.

During the last Teachers Week celebration, teachers were treated to a star-studded tribute concert at Music Hall of Mall of Asia.

As livelihood is considered an important part of helping teachers, teachers and their families have been tapped as sales agents for PLDT and Smart products and services.

They get 25-percent discounts on PLDT myDSL subscription plans and enjoy easy credit from program partner Asia Philippines Foundation, a microfinance institution for the poor, to help them start their own businesses.

Under broadbanding and computerization of public schools, the program has given these schools free Internet access for a limited period. Computer donations have been made since 2007.

This complements 3G seminars for teachers and encourages teachers and students to access free educational resources on the Internet and use them for creative teaching and learning.

In September, 20, the government of Sta. Ignacia (Tarlac) and Sharon, through City Mayor Tito Sarino, and Education Secretary Secretary Armin A. Luistro, FSC, signed an agreement for a pioneer banking project for students.

DC teacher communities are now also being set up in Barangay Cartin, offering affordable financing to some 100 teacher beneficiaries on 3-month installments.

TEACHERS' TRAINING Sharpening the saw is a big part of improving their skills.

Partnerships with other local government officials have also been established for future housing projects.

Last year, DC chair Chaye A. Cabal, also PLDT EVP and controller, discussed the DC program with Deputy Executive Director Jesse Purisima of Millennium Development Goals. DC was considered a model platform that could help improve education in other member countries of the United Nations.

Cabal said DC could be adopted in other countries to help produce better-skilled teachers.

HONORS FOR ACHIEVEMENT, DEDICATION The Chinese General Hospital College of Nursing and Liberal Arts (CGHCNLA) honored student achievers and dedicated faculty members on its First Commencement exercises. CGHCNLA president and chairman Dr. James G. Dy (center), chair of the Filipino Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (FCGCCI), hands a plaque of appreciation to guest speaker Commissioner Atty. Joseph Victor Principio/Regulation Commission Board of Nursing. Others in photo are Benito Gaerlan, Dy Yap Chou and Florante Dy of the Philippine Chinese Charitable Association, Inc. (PCCAI), owner of the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center; and CGHCNLA's Edgar Chang, dean Dr. Chua Su, Dr. Elizabeth Go, Elmer Tang and Dr. Tan King King.

Climate change audio-visual exhibit

Ayala Museum, in partnership with Goethe Institut Philippinen, presents an audio-visual exhibit on climate change entitled "Unsettled Transformers," ongoing until May 29 at the ground floor lobby. A panel discussion with climate change experts is set at 3 p.m. today prior to the 6:30 p.m. opening of the exhibit. Ayala Museum is at the corner of Makati Avenue and De la Rosa Street, Makati City.

'Bayanihan' builds computer-equipped, eco-friendly mountain school

Text and photos by
Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SAN VICENTE, Nueva Vizcaya—Ten-year-old Maribeth Pattao beamed when she learned she would be enrolling at the new Tan Yan Kee Elementary School in Aduas.

The school is close to the family's hut in the mountain village of Bulsoc.

Pattao, who will be in third grade this coming school year, had stayed home this school year to look after her four-year-old brother while her parents tended to their vegetable farms on the other side of the mountain.

Not going to school was a struggle for her, Pattao's mother, Lorenza, said.

"She was always late, having to walk for almost an hour to get [to school]. Besides, it was also tough for us to pay the P100 monthly contribution for a volunteer teacher's [honorarium]," the mother said in Ilocano.

But with the school now just a 15-minute walk from their home, Pattao will be one of the first enrollees of the three-classroom Tan Yan Kee Elementary School, a collaborative project between the private foundation of the same name and other partners.

Bulsoc village is the latest recipient of a school-building project that has seen other Filipinos benefit—or more recently, profit.

The seven private organizations collaborated with national and local government agencies to put up what would be the first school of its kind in a remote village.

LEARN: Some learning awaits the first students of the new four-classroom school building with Santa Fe mayor Dandanna Padilla Jr. (in shirt).

The school, which will rely on solar power, is equipped with personal computers and has a mini library.

All the 60 pupils expected to enroll in the new school year can surf the web using a wireless broadband Internet connection.

"It is this hope [that ignites] that somewhere in the continuing improvement and quality of education," said Henry Tan, vice chair of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation.

The foundation, which is headed by the Lucio Tan Group of Companies, invests on education, culture and sports.

Tan said the Bulsoc school would become a showcase of bayanihan care for the environment, and quality education.

He said the school would be a fitting tribute to his late father, Tan Yan Kee, who would be celebrating his 100th year, and of the foundation named after him that would be marking its 25th anniversary.

"Both [the mass and foundation] stand for the values of education, harmony with earth, and cooperative spirit," Tan said.

The school stands on a hill and overlooks the verdant rice fields and the river in Bulsoc.

Ironically part of a forest reserve, the one-hectare lot was transformed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the Department of Education (DepEd), allowed the foundation to build there.

The cost of construction was primarily shouldered by the foundation while the local government built a dirt road that linked the school to the highway, said Mayor Norberto Padilla Jr.

Padilla said almost everything had to be done manually because of the difficulty of bringing construction materials to the area. The village people did their share by helping carry the materials.

TAN Yan Kee Elementary School (formerly Bulsoc Primary School) is the first school in Nueva Vizcaya to run on solar power.

In allow students to complete their elementary education in the same school, a second three-classroom building is being constructed. Funds for the additional building are being provided by the provincial government, according to Aduas Pacific school principal.

Around 300 plastic desks were donated by the University of the East (UE) while five refurbished computer units, running on Windows XP, and pieces of office furniture were provided by Philippine Airlines (PAL). UE and PAL are part of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies.

Bulsoc's pupils and their parents will not have to share the cost of electricity because school equipment will run on free solar power.

The solar power generator was provided by the Super Group Foundation, the First Philec Solar Solutions and Isuzu power Philippines Manufacturing, Ltd.

It can generate around 3.3 kilowatt hours of electricity every day, more than enough energy to light up the school, and operate electric fans and computers during school hours.

Elder Telecom donated 1,000 story books and a stationary globe, as well as book shelves for the mini library. It will also provide Internet access through a Wi-Max broadband facility.

To address the need for safe drinking water, the International Buddhist Progress Society paid for the construction of water storage tanks. It also donated additional office furniture.

Tan said the foundation took into account environmental security at every construction phase since the school was in a mountainous area.

The hill where the school stands suffered from deforestation in the past because of land-grab farming.

The school design will keep pupils shielded from the heat—of the sun by trees and cooled by mountain breeze.

"Some 900 narra and mahogany seedlings have been planted to keep up with environmental standards," said Tan. The seedlings were donated by the Kaisa Ke Gerrmann Organization.

75-year-old publishing house set to venture outside PH

SEVENTY-FIVE years ago, the country's very first textbook publishing house was established.

Abiva Publishing House Inc. (Aphi) was set up by educators Luis and Amanda Quirce Abiva on May 9, 1936, in a one-room office on Evangelista Street in Quiapo, Manila.

The company started by publishing civil service examination review materials for first- to second-grade policemen, and for junior and senior teachers.

Asuncion managed the office in Manila while Luis traveled to the provinces to promote the review materials he himself wrote.

When Luis was killed during the war, Asuncion, though left to care for four children by herself, boldly expanded the company's business and added elementary and high school textbooks to Abiva's menu of products.

Aphi published textbooks like "Walang Sinabi" (1960), and the "Hiraya" series (1965).

When the second generation Abivas, headed by Luis Quirce Abiva Jr., took over in the 1980s, the company became known for distinguishing the 1974 Reading Laboratory Kit Started in 1961, the IBRe Division Research Associates) are individualized and multilevel literary-based reading programs.

Today, headed by its president, Jorge A. Garcia, a third generation Abiva, Aphi has registered more than 90 percent increase in sales of its textbooks, from preschool to college.

A hallmark of Aphi publications is the care given to every title—from development, to writing, editing and printing. The company takes pride in the fact that no Abiva textbook has ever been cited for any factual error.

"We put out more than 50 new titles a year, a commitment that we have been keeping to the Filipino students for several decades now. This is an input the titles that are consistently error and update," said Garcia, who is also a member of the board of advisers of the Philippine Educational Publishers Association (Pepa).

Garcia credited people who shared the company's commitment to the publishing industry for Aphi's ability to maintain the quality of its products. They include authors, education specialists, and pedagogical editors.

With more advanced technologies he delivering better educational materials to Filipino students, Garcia was hopeful Aphi would have an exciting future.

ABIVA president Garcia

Among Aphi's future projects is the teaching of English as a second language online, using Abiva textbooks.

Garcia also saw Aphi becoming a stronger player outside the Philippines, addressing the demand, especially in the Middle East, for Filipino textbooks by Filipino authors.

ARE THESE PICTURES SENDING US A MESSAGE?

Are the world's weirdest terrified by rumbo bumper sent images of Japan's historic 11 disaster, two interesting photos stand out amidst it all. Among the Unfortunate is a close-up of the Goddess of Mercy, Kannon in the midst of the Sendai area and then by the disaster.

Characterized in these environments, Kannon on this image of the Hokoku Buddha also emerged among the Associated Press' photos documenting the calamity.

Perhaps it was coincidence? But this many stone statues were saved by their stone weight?

But maybe it was to send their message here. Those thousands of kilometer this hope. Or that God does not destroy, and too lenient to be swept away by any catastrophe. Or that in this work, material things are not an importance as mercy, and happiness and is answering faith in God and our fellow man.

Perhaps these statues are a message for Japan that when all else is taken away, this virtues and core beliefs that have steadfastly remained to the Japanese people will help them rebuild again.

Most importantly, it could be a message for the rest of the world: Rise we can, never back. Worry any more, and be saved in the end, as they, on 1945, lived and completed a number after in each of us, and make the long road of rebuilding, it is no least in God that will give us hope and help us triumph.

Book finder

Mayhem and mishaps

NEED HELP picking books for the kids? You don't have to buy the complete series at one time. Sample one and if it turns to be an exciting read, then you can get the rest.

Big Nate: In a Class by Himself
By Lincoln Peirce
Age group: 8-9

From starring in a comic strip he wrote and penned his former, Nate becomes a paperback sensation, makes in this series that dissects life in middle school. The story begins, oddly enough, with a tortoise cookie phrase that becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy for the angry-enticed and unflappable Nate.

Thea Stilton and the Cherry Blossom
By Thea Stilton
Age group: 8-11

If the name sounds familiar, it's because Thea is Geronimo's sister and there are 23 million taxonomic tattoo books in print in 38 languages! Why, should this sister Thea, is correspondent for The Rodent's Gazette, stay out of the fun? In this book, Pea Thea Stilton's sent off on an adventure to Japan as cultural exchange students. A plot gets afoot from a rich collector as the five sisters arrive there. Can they track down the thief and recover the doll? Young readers will love playing detective as they go by to solve the Japanese mystery.

Paperback series are available at Fullstand Book Centers and Powerbooks.

MGA DIKDLAR NG BAYAN

Friends Faye Balonzel Lulu Javier and Monica Paola Mariano, who are also classmates and "ang nanay" (UP PMA), have fun while photo-mugging for an Ilaw ng Bayan around of the University of the Philippines Diliman used in their signature UP salute after the April 13 commencement exercises that earned her and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Accountancy degree. Javier and Mariano graduated cum laude.

Home improvement 'all under one roof'

haven is now in Makati

the home depot by CW group

Supplement to Philippine Daily Inquirer

By Joel F. Nigos

Just a few years ago, people who want to build their dream homes or trade professionals involved in the hardware and construction industry must often find looking for products that they need a very tedious task. They have to hop from one store to another just to find the products that suit their requirements. This is not only time consuming, getting from one hardware store to another is also very inconvenient especially if they're bringing with them the items that they earlier bought from the first store that they visited.

This task is even more taxing especially when out in the city's end, they will find out that one product's shape or color does not fit the other. So they have to go through the entire process again. That time should have been devoted to the main task of building one's dream home.

Thus, there was a need to consolidate all the hardware and construction products under one roof. And this was realized with the establishment of the The Home Depot in 2004.

The Home Depot pioneered the store with the store haven carrying a complete line of building, finishing and furnishing materials all under one roof. With everything in one place, homebuyers and trade professionals are now able to shop for their home construction needs without having to worry about commuting so much time, wasting more effort, or even worse buying the material that doesn't fit the others.

Since then, The Home Depot became a household name. And with people getting to know more about the store, the need to establish other outlets in key areas became apparent. The first The Home Depot store are located in Cubao, Alabang, Marikina Bay, Subic and Pampanga.

Now, that convenience and the value-added services offered when buying hardware and construction materials is now in Makati as The Home Depot opens its sixth branch today.

Located at Chino Roces Avenue Extension (formerly Pasong Tamo), The Home Depot features a 12,000 sq. m. floor area divided into three levels. The ground level houses the general hardware, the second level the specialty hardware and kitchen, while the third level houses the events hall.

Ferdinand Co, managing director of The Home Depot by CW Group, says that with the opening of its Makati store, they will now be able to serve the residents in that part of the metropolis.

"We have another group of people which we wanted to tap with this outlet. These are the trade professionals who most often encourage in this area," he adds.

Just like the other stores, The Home Depot in Makati features that concepts which would help consumers see their specific needs.

"We have the Home Builders' Superstore at the Ground floor, the Home Interior Superstore, Home Appliances Superstore, and the specialty stores," Co enumerates.

The Home Depot also sort to exclusive brands from various countries like Roca bathroom fixtures from Spain, White Horse ceramic tiles from Malaysia, Taicera Tiles from Germany, Hunter fans from the United States, Megaman Energy Saving Lights from Germany, Markilight from Sweden, among others.

This is not regard a wide array of hardware and construction products which one of the best variety but not at a very competitive price.

To adds that what would distinguish The Home Depot from other similar stores is its specialty area which not only boasts of the best products but also the experts in the industry.

"For example, a granite topic not something that you pick and buy in the store, it's not like assorted size. Sometimes has to cut it to your size. We provide that service. Another is the wallpaper which has to measure to the wall measurements of one's house. This service is not available at other hardware and construction stores," he says.

The Home Depot Events Hall

What is Co most proud of with the new Makati branch is the creation of the Events Hall situated on the third level of the store.

"This is a step further from our first five stores. With our first five outlets, we're able to cater to the needs of the end users, now we want to do the same with the trade professionals," he explained, adding that this makes the Makati location very ideal because this is where most of the trade professionals converge. "Here, they can network with other stakeholders in the industry, search for appropriate products for their projects, sponsor or fabricate, scale up with trade events, seminars, or simply hold their meetings or do other things in the exercise of their profession."

Co says that The Home Depot serves end users at affordable levels while trying to be it more. "For Makati branch, he says, would further cater to the trade professionals' A to E market. By A to E he means (a) laborers, (b) drillers, (c) electricians, (d) engineers, and (e) engineers. "Sometimes we also add the 'F' number, 'F' means friends," he says in jest.

"Because dealings with the trade professionals, we notice that they look to appropriate place where they can interact with each other, share or discuss among them and to customize the advantages of their products, or even say, for an interior designer or an architect to present his designs," he says.

He says that with an events hall located within the store, they can even compare one product from another by getting samples down stairs. "This way, they can see the price, size, shape, color, texture, etc. of the products. The industrial specifications of the items can also be discussed so right there and then they can make an intelligent comparison."

Except that Co will help bridge the gap between various industry stakeholders and end users.

He adds, "If you're an interior designer and you're designing something, you have to see the product. With a wide variety of similar products around at The Home Depot, all a designer has to do is to take example of the same problem at the store and come with the best solution for his design. We also have a tile library here where an interior designer can draw his design and immediately send it to client because it has an Internet connection."

Home price guarantee, loyalty card, double 'F' deal

Both trade professionals and end users can reap the following added benefits The Home Depot provides for its customers.

These are the home price guarantee, the rewards program via its loyalty card, and the double 'F' deal.

With the home price guarantee, customers are guaranteed that products sold at The Home Depot will never be higher than those sold even at the neighborhood hardware store.

"If a customer finds the same product with a price lower than what The Home Depot sells, all he has to do is to submit the official receipt to us and we will match the price on the receipt. We do that because we wanted to correct the notion that just because the store is air-conditioned (like ours), we charge a higher price for our products," he says.

The Home Depot's loyalty rewards program, meanwhile, offers a progressive type of rewards program in which a member's account will never go back to zero point redeem it rewards its validity period of two years.

MORE ON

Message

My warmest congratulations to The Home Depot Makati Branch on the occasion of its Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony today, 9 (9/11).

The opening of The Home Depot is indeed a valuable investment by Makati because it will add to the thriving business climate in the city. The Home Depot has maintained its quality product line-up at reasonable prices, making it a one-stop source for their needs. With the majority your store has opted for years, consumers will have the assurance that they are buying the best products in the market.

I am deeply elated that you have chosen Makati City as the location of your latest branch in the country. The city government always urges business ventures such as yours since you will be able to provide for the home and office needs of residents and businesses in the vicinity, thus helping them save on transportation costs. Your presence will surely enliven the business activity and economic development of Makati City.

Again, I am attending my sincere wishes for your continued success! Mabuhay ka kayo!

JEJOMAR C. BINAY, JR.
Mayor

The Home Depot opens Makati branch

THE HOME Depot by CW Group opens another branch which will be situated at the heart of the Central Business District. Bringing its unique store-within-a-store haven initiative, The Home Depot offers a one-stop-shop for building, finishing and furnishing materials to home owners and builders alike.

The new branch is located at 2284 Chino Roces Avenue and covers a total of a total of 10, 323 sqm. Its price-value-range complements the ambiance of Makati City's most affluent residents. The Home Depot's unique store layout of four subdivisions. The Home Builders Superstore, The Home Interior Superstore, the Home Appliance Superstore across and specialty corporate stores.

Comparable to a shopping mall, The Home Depot presents a variety of specialized boutiques, to name a few are: 3M Corporate, Akwa, Western Wood, Petsmo, Boss 2000, Cleanbath, BMC Builders, Audio, Asiaco, Lifoc, S.G.O., Bostitch, Faire Technologies, Lustor, IN Kitchen, Bormioses, Shell Concrete, Ygia, Armstrong and Elitra.

Latest additions to the roster are Firefly, by Design, Dutch, Diamond Office Furniture, Mr Cane, and Goes Still Designs, Design Stainless Products (DSP) which all can be found in Makati Branch.

The new branch also unveils its ultra-modern event halls which can hold up to 400 people, or by the floor. The venue is specially designed to play host to significant trade events of the building and construction industry such as conferences, exhibits, corporate meetings and other special functions.

"It is a common knowledge that Makati is the financial hub of the Philippines and home to many offices and famous skyscrapers of the country. Our Design, Cebu Owned hardware and lifestyle emporium caters to all, which is evidenced by the growing demand of quality building materials in Makati. Taguig and other nearby key areas. On top of our recent hall, our Makati branch is continuously upgrading with new Kitchen and Bath Gallery, Tile Gallery and Home Appliances Superstore," said Ferdinand Co, managing director of The Home Depot.

Since its inception 1 succeeds years ago, The Home Depot by CW Group has strategically branched out to Cubao, Alabang, Marikina Bay, Batasan and Pampanga - offering unparalleled shopping convenience, comprehensive promotions, and many value-added services to its growing clientele. The opening of Makati cements all variables. The Home Depot be of service and more convenient to every and trade professionals appreciating the convenience and added-bigger of shopping in a one-stop shop home center.

"Listening to the voices of our customers has long been essential to us in order why after addressing the most needs of our various clientele, we are also provide them, especially the trade professionals, an event hall where they can conduct their specific functions, seminars and trade events. We see it as a significant role in the success of our partners by offering them and their clients a complimentary venue for their convenience. Because here at The Home Depot we always want our clients to feel at home," added Co.

The Home Depot is a joint venture of Cebu Overseas Hardware Co. Inc. and Read Point Industrial Co., both enjoying an excellent track record in the building and construction arena. For updates on The Home Depot and its latest endeavors, you can visit CW Home Depot on Facebook at facebook.com/cwhomedepot or visit www.cwhomedepot.com.

The Home Depot Makati branch project was made possible by the following partners:

Sia + Sia Associates (Principal Architect)

AS THE DESIGNERS for the Industrial branch of The Home Depot, architects Glenn Sia and consultants and the personnel tasked to design the successful opened Makati branch. From conception to implementation, he and his team of project engineers, the architects of the occupancy, ranking pride in Filipino ingenuity in the field of construction innovations, creates spaces that are not only functional but able to provide an atmosphere that is the expectations and needs of their guests. Established since 2004, every building he designed is unique and innovative, most individual. Design for The Home Depot project provided a unique challenge for Sia as the principal architect as it was important not to deviate the need to coordinate and re-use existing building structure to connect to a new building and to make it as seamless as possible. Another concern was to make the building adaptable to multiple uses in the future. Previous model business of the old building spaces were easy to enhance individual tenant areas, to provide an economical solution for their prospective and has added more accessible spaces and modern floor as well. The end result is a more flexible and can possess specific customer and building, adding value to the property.

D.A. Abcede and Associates (Project Manager)

WITH THE increasing technological complexity of projects nowadays as well as more complicated client expectations and requirements, the old teachings among contractors on how to run a business that is more professional project management is becoming a key role in making sure construction projects achieve their targets. With over three decades of experience, D.A. Abcede and Associates has been one of the pioneers of this construction project management profession in the country, comes with a wide range of experience in all aspects of work in construction. Its founder, engineer Dennis A. Abcede and a handful of engineers established D.A. Abcede & Associates in 1972. It has evolved, expanded to a long term, medium term and short term construction clients and has grown to be one of the biggest construction project management houses in the country today with more than 200 strong technical personnel, engineers and architects. As construction project managers, it represents the clients by formulating business arrangement and technical requirements to achieve project quality control, safety management guidance, cost control, time control and project completion as well as the desired standards.

Grandspan Development Corp (General Contractor)

GRANDSPAN DEVELOPMENT Corporation is a market leader in the steel fabrication, erection services, industry manufacturing, building equipment and general construction business. GDC continues to this strength in total quality management system, and in the safety and environmental performance. GDC is a recognized as the country's partner for progress and development by providing customers with value-added, integrated project delivery services of marketing value with the highest standards of product, excellence and to be branch competitive. Grandspan Development Corporation also continues to meet manufacturing and construction needs of its customers, and to maintain a Quality Management, as a leading construction contractor to ensure growth and technical prowess.

As an integral part of Grandspan Development Corporation is one of the manufacturing and fabrication of structural steel that will meet international standards as a subcontractor and other allied lines for sales, related products to local community, personal improvement, quality assurance standards in both to the United States and Japan markets. With a passion for quality and efficiency, its modern and fully equipped steel and fabrication plants ensure clients of timely delivery of projects with clients per quality. The company started in 1979 as a 15 hectare yard located in the Sta. Rosa, Laguna area. Total orders to become one of the country's most reputable steel fabrication companies. Its steel, metal and steel trailer plants are located in Cavite, Laguna and Bataan. With a team of engineers, draftsmen, welders and mechanical engineers, it also continues to expand to a sizeable local market share.

THE LIFT COMPANY PHILIPPINES, INC.
2nd Floor Fortune Bldg., Pasig Blvd., Pasig City, Philippines
Telephone Number: 4624171-80/4624171-89/4624171-92 Fax: 4624171-72/72
Email Address: ltcp.sales@gmail.com; theliftcompany@yahoo.com

ARROWBOND
ALUMINUM COMPOSITE PANELS

ARK MARKETING, INC.
making scientific ideas

steeltech

HANAY ENTERPRISE

UNITY EXPRESS INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

INTERCOOL

GRANDSPAN
Development Corporation
Cultivate a Quality Organization

Powermeering

D.A. ABCEDE
& ASSOCIATES

MI ALUMINUM CORPORATION

SIA + SIA associates

APEGLINE CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

Putting a light on the subject of home decoration

A look at Makati Home Depot's specialty lighting stores

By Alvin Uy

INTERIOR DESIGNERS use lighting to create various moods and bring out the colors of walls and fabrics in a home. Layering several types of lights makes a room more comfortable and inviting by avoiding bothglare and dark shadows. Living rooms, dining, kitchen, bedrooms and other parts of the house will benefit from both ambient and task lighting treatments. Designers use artificial lighting in various locations in our house, offices, stores, factories, streets, and even in the outdoors. We depend on lighting not only for sight and safety in dark places and also for decorative and architectural purposes. Here are some of the lighting stores where you can find interesting lighting fixtures at the new Makati branch of The Home Depot.

Artescent House of Lamps

Also located in Ayala ave as well as in other and Manila Bay branches of The Home Depot, Artescent House of Lamps has been around for more than 10 years, they have been serving the lighting requirements of homeowners as well as commercial establishments. It has steadily built a reputation for selling high quality chandeliers and other types of lighting fixtures like ceiling lamps, pendants, wall lamps, sconces, floor lamps, table lamps, down lights, spotlights, track lights, desk lamps and outdoor lamps. Artescent house of lights offers a complete and fine selection of lamps at very competitive prices.

Eglo

Established in Austria in 1969 by Ludwig Obwieser, Eglo Leuchten by the mid 1980's became one of the leading light manufacturers in Europe. Expanding into new markets for sales a priority particularly to the asian markets, as Eglo gave up more than 70 business experience and dealerships all over the world. It is globally classed as one of the most successful suppliers of decorative home lighting and to the local front is represented by a sister company of Rustan family's Automative Centre and Home Fair Furniture Group.

Firefly Flexible Store

Firefly Electric and Lighting Corporation (Firefly) was formally established in 2001 to engage primarily in the contracting and sales of various lighting and electrical products in the Philippines. It provides cost-effective and quality solutions to various project applications to complement with its wide range of lighting products. It is FIFY exclusive distributor of Firefly lighting and electrical products. Manufactured by Firefly China Co. Ltd., it is a Sino-German joint-venture established in 1995, using the latest technology. Its design, Firefly lighting products are seasonally exported to and sold in over 32 countries all over the world. Prior to after the establishment of its Philippines for Bora Electrical and Wiring Devices. The Bora brand of Electrical and Wiring Devices is also manufactured in the People's Republic of China by Bora Electric Co. Ltd. using the latest in Japanese manufacturing technology. Since its initial operation in 2001, Firefly has continued to expand its product line which now consists of a whole range of lighting and electrical products such as energy saving lamps, airtight and circular fluorescent tubes, chi-lucis and linear halogen lamps, starters, ballasts and lighting fixtures. Firefly and Bora products are already distributed in almost every hardware and electrical stores nationwide.

Hardware

If you are looking for outdoor residential and commercial lighting fixtures, this is the right store for you. You can find lighting, floodlights, spot lights, pedestals, garden lights, inground lights, emergency lights among other types of lighting fixtures for most applications. And if you'll be Makati branch, their stores are located at Ortigas, Manila Bay, Alabang and Pampanga branches.

Ishwa Lighting

Present in all branches of The Home Depot, Ishwa offers a plethora of exciting lighting products that are unique to the home furnishings industry. They offer table lamps, floor lamps, buffet lamps, sconce lamps and other decorative accessories to fit a broad range of today's customers lifestyles... from casual to transitional and to contemporary.

SMC

There lighting fixtures have been featured in countless homes and commercial superstores, making them one of the top choices for designers and homeowners for their quality, design adverts as and competitive pricing. Offering good value when it comes to outdoor and interior lighting.

FIREFLY

IKHEA

SMC Home BUILDERS

ASIA

Providing homeland security

The Home Depot's hi-tech security specialty stores

IMAGINE STEPPING into your home and pushing on the touch-screen panel announcing your arrival. The lights turn on, the blinds go up, and even the air-conditioning starts adjusting to the desired temperature. Sounds like a futuristic scene from a sci-fi movie? One doesn't have to watch the movies nowadays to see this type of set-ups. These days, more and more homes are "wirelessly" automation for their basic and essential home features. Thanks to the advent of high-tech home security systems, what was once the fantasy that was once only achieved through television or movie special effects, is here now. Nowadays, automation is available and for home security. The Home Depot's Makati branch showcases their specialty security companies that can offer some of the best electronic security systems in the market today.

[LEFT like a command center than a spy movie, CCTV monitoring systems give you a big brother's perspective on your property.

Adlib International

This company hails from its room-from-a-large-size, phenomenon dealing with electronic equipment and electrical devices. Aside from providing security and surveillance systems to homeowners, it has extensive dealings with large multi-nationals with particular security needs. From automated gate controls, to CCTV surveillance systems to intelligent building support systems, adlib is a one-stop-solution for industrial, residential and commercial security needs.

Doortech System

Founded by Dr. Joshua Uy, he says that their product is not only for the very rich. "We have clients from fumigation to Ayala, Alabang," he quips. He says that the common denominator among them is that they all believe in investing wisely for their safety and convenience. His company specializes in automated door systems and he certainly knows what he's talking about since he has their door he applied his features because of his own personal need to have an automated door and gate system for his own home. It works simply, too. Getting home in your car, you are equipped with a remote control system that allows you to open and close the gate behind you without slighting from your vehicle, or without bothering anyone with the hum of your horn. That comes in handy during heavy downpour, or when you live in a quiet neighborhood and have to come home in the middle of the night.

Faire Technologies

Faire Technologies, Inc. is a security systems integrator and provider of a wide array of high quality, intelligible electronic security products used for different applications. Its products are used in retail, commercial, industrial and government sectors to deter theft and crimes; as well as, to protect people, property and information. It provides homeowners and private or public firms with state-of-the-art video solutions in their security requirements through security systems. Visit.

AUTOMATIC gate are essential remedies for security conscious homeowners.

'Home improvement...

From page 6-B

"The more purchases a member makes, the faster they can reach a milestone and they have a rewarding reward. Trade professionals involved in the building and construction business are entitled to a certain monetary loyalty card (professional). Individual customers are also entitled once they accumulate purchases worth P50,000 in a one-year period," Uy says.

Another first in the industry is the double "0" deal via The Home Depot co-branded credit card with Unionbank Visa.

"Here, every cardholder enjoys a year round 0 percent interest on 3, 6 and 12 months installment terms, plus they only get to pay for their first monthly amortization after three months. So it's a double zero treat and that's why we call it double O."

Uy says that they have come up with that because they are aware of the problem one usually faces when he's constructing or renovating a house. "When their budget fell short what happens is they downgrade the design, or buy cheaper but not materially the same quality material since the project needs to be finished."

He says that that card gives the customer a chance to complete their dream home. And because it's Unionbank credit card, cardholders can find lots enjoy various features such as the auto-charge facility, auto-issue one installment plan, discounts and freebies, on-the-go customer service with a 24-hour hotline, mobile and Internet access to accounts, Facebook and Tweeter updates, unlimited number of supplementary cards, multiple payment channels and flexible payment scheme.

The CW Group

The Home Depot by CW Group was established in 2003 by the two leaders in the hardware and construction industry.

It introduced the first store within a one-stop concept where everything you need to build or renovate your home can be found in one roof. What is truly unique for this store is its retail platform similar to a shopping mall but features a wide range of merchandise within the store. The Home Depot outlets are typically laid out into three divisions namely the home builder's superstore, the home interior superstore and the specialty stores.

A year later, The Home Depot opened its flagship branch - The Home Depot Ortigas. It quickly made a home among the homeowners and builders in the area because of the store's wide array of products and unparalleled shopping convenience. The duo of first store's home depots in different areas made The Home Depot by CW Group open more branches to cater to the growing demand of quality building, finishing and furnishing needs of the buying public.

The Home Depot opened branches in Muntinlupa in 2006, in Manila Bay in 2007, and in Balintawak and Pampanga in 2009.

The CW Marketing and Development Corp. is a joint venture of Cebu Dowsing Hardware Co. Inc. and West Point Industrial Sales Co. Inc. Cebu Dowsing is one of the biggest hardware, steel metes and finishing materials suppliers in the Philippines with a history of over 50 years.

West Point, on the other hand, is primarily engaged in the importation and wholesale of construction materials. Since its establishment in 2006, it has been supplying Philippine consumers with high-quality and affordable construction products.

"We are committed to be the largest, widest, most convenient, and most complete quality building and construction store in the country catering to all home and building needs at the most competitive prices," Co says of The Home Depot by CW Group's vision.

The Home Depot's specialty stores in Makati

From page B4

sign options for their kitchen cabinets and wardrobe doors, including addition of different hardware and accessories. Whether you are building the kitchen of your dreams or simply want to renovate the one you currently own, PB Interiors designs to offer you a free consultation to get you started on the right track. With classic sleek lines, minimalist touches, and coordinating panel tones, its well designed kitchens usually tend of homeowners that will make your cookware experience something to be joyous. PB Interiors Inc., offers a complete range of granite and stone selection for kitchen countertops. Being the Philippines premier importer of granite from countries like India, China and Italy, it provides customers with a value added service of being a one-stop-shop for all their interior searching requirements.

S.G.O. Philippines' Tylenox

Started when Dorothy Philippines Inc. first decided to glass balustrades to decorate and beautify their stairways, S.G.O. Philippines is now the leader in stair railing and modular design performance as more and more homeowners are demanding glass frame balustrades that are refined, safe, and aesthetically pleasing. Internationally tested aluminum-made S.G.O. Phils., Inc. stair assemblies in clients and several residential solutions to last rising developments across Odessa Manila Bay, Ortigas, Manila Bay, Alabang, Balintawak and the latest one in Makati. When it comes to stained glass, shower enclosures, glass railing, and much more, S.G.O. Philippines is the top choice for homeowners, designers and architects.

Shell Carpet

Shell Carpet is the Philippines' leading fabrics and furnishing house for residential and contract use. Established since 1957, it currently has eight branches in Metro Manila and one branch in Cebu City. Its Makati branch will be the 9th in Manila and 10th with The Home Depot Group. It operates as a wholesale and retail one-stop fabrics and furnishing house, selling to customers and residential interior designers, architects and interior design department of fine retail and furniture stores. With a wide range of exclusive collections from the world's leading top manufacturers of luxurious decorative fabrics, carpets, blinds and wall coverings, Shell Carpets provides its customers with a professional and personalized attention and a myriad of customer services. Its products include interior decor fabrics, curtains and window treatments (drapes, rods, tracks, etc.), draperies, trimmings, wallpapers, carpets and rugs, blinds and bamboo shades, leather, upholstery foams and other upholstery supplies. All of its products are exclusively commissioned and imported from USA, Europe and Asia.

Storin 2000

Storin 2000's unique product lines and its commitment to excellence is shown by providing select branded products which are reasonably priced and continually provides creative solutions through installation experts with its highly experienced craftsmen. Considering the fact that it is really expensive to build and to renovate buildings nowadays, it ensures its customers get their money's worth by being competitive in terms of reasonable pricing, quality value of products and installation and low cost of maintenance. It has been in business for 14 years and is the exclusive Philippine distributor of Mikasa dinnerware and a certified licensee of Romantic flooring systems and an authorized distributor and installer of the popular sterling brand Upm Blumin.

Western Wood Flooring

Laminated floorings and engineered wood floors are just two of the basic development in modern day interior installations. As mentioned floors, they are manufactured to simulate and look like natural wood flooring. It may be the best assignment you're seeking if you want a wood floor in an area that real wood is not suitable for use, and this may be the perfect solution if you're looking for a high-wear, low-maintenance floor that is easy to install. Engineered wooden floors can offer better sound absorption and more natural feel of solid wood that has been pre-finished and varnished already. Western Wood Flooring products offer value for money. Being manufacture without sacrificing quality, it is one of the first stores in your boutique shop rooms that specialize in engineered wooden floors. Its parent company, JMI Supreme International is the only company in the country that is a member of the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) of the United States. JMI Supreme International, Inc. was established in 1995 as an import and export trading corporation and has since then become the distributor of various products recently associated with the forestry industry.

The Home Depot's specialty stores in Makati

Providing a complete home improvement retail experience and environment

SPECIALTY STORES are a key component in every branch of The Home Depot, which is expected to have approximately 20 to 25 branches in the Philippines by 2015. Specialty stores are free-standing, single-category stores that are strategically located near The Home Depot branches. They offer a wider selection of products in their specific categories, and provide customers with more in-depth knowledge and expertise.

The Home Depot has partnered with leading retailers and companies selling specialty products in the home furnishings, appliances and electronics categories to open specialty stores in its branches.

Here are some of the specialty stores that will be opening in The Home Depot Makati branch:

Ardeo

One of the pioneers in the kitchen cabinet industry in the Philippines, Ardeo is the brand to go to for the latest trends in kitchen and closet cabinet styling and organization. Its Starmo Shelving system is endorsed by popular celebrity TV host Regine Tolentino. With its "system" approach, how does this fantastic, easy-to-use, hinge system change the hanging of clothes forever? With a combination of modern looks and a flexible layout system with a competitive price to match, it's easy to find storage solutions for your living room, dining area, office and study room and even the bedroom.

Automatic Center

Automatic Center is the pioneer in appliance and electronics retailing in the country. Established in 1949 as four small stalls in Divisoria, it started off as a single-door store called Automatic Electric. Its first Apple store in year-old Glorietta shopping district along Ayala Ave. It initially sold basic electrical supplies and eventually small appliances like radio sets. Since there was no standard any restaurant other than Mackan (today the Japanese restaurant), there was a huge demand for radio sets. Its founder Benito Lim started selling radio sets and began establishing dealerships with various brands of appliances. By 1956, as the expanding philippine market which was put up at the Makati Commercial Center, the country's first major commercial center. It pioneered the concept of appliance supermarkets. That store evolved into a 3,000-square-meter department called Automatic Center, which opened in 1977. It later on introduced Home Entertainment which became an integral section of the store and is now in Makati center still has its 20th branch.

Bensons

Bensons Manufacturing Corporation is the leader in water storage solutions and personalized waste systems. With an expansive authorized network of distributors from Luzon to Mindanao to complement home centers, it caters every aspect imaginable for home and building owners to store household storage to personalized waste disposal and development. It has become the household name in the industry for its quality, consistent and reliable service coverage, including customer solutions.

Blims Fine Furniture

Blims is the furniture store that defines lifestyles. With sixteen showrooms nationwide, its Home Depot Makati branch will be the 17th and latest outlet serving customers with practical solutions for the home and for tabletop that can complement any customer. Blims has been an industry leader and innovator for over 30 years while continuously taking pride in product making the furniture industry by offering many unique styles. It also has CREATE Furniture, a series of uniquely stylish and trendy collections ranging from beautiful pieces that are functional. Blims services also include delivery, assembly and after-sales service. Blims also has Mini Blims, tailored to provide modern touches for offices – the ergonomic chair, its peculiar lines includes and kid chairs look like toys. Blims Global and Umbrella (Singapore).

Easton Builders

As the exclusive distributor of Artis architectural hardware, Easton offers a wide array of door hardware in splendorous finishes to suit all commercial, residential and institutional applications. For door security systems and hardware, Easton specializes in over-the-counter solutions as well as sophisticated and featured security systems for today's office and high-rise buildings.

H2O Concepts

The bathroom concept now has been a long time spot only their haven of "The Home Depot and it showcases a wide array of baths, sinks, faucets, counter equipment and toilet bowls to create with an easy-to-use home spaces solutions on how to plan and design their bathroom whether it would be for a new home or just remodeling job. The concept store simulates bathroom showrooms for in consumers to appreciate how their products are used and applied in actual settings. It gives them an idea on how to plan their dream bathroom as well as provide styles, ideas and suggestions from their in-house sales consultants.

Idec Aircon Systems

Idec Aircon specialty might boast air-condition equipment's but also various well-branded, ceiling mounted and floor-mounted split type aircon systems in very affordable and competitive price. It offers free installation and warranty for its customers and specialized in multi-point, multi-room air conditioning systems that provide more efficient systems with up to 30 percent energy for its customers.

Oasis Group

The Oasis Group started as electronic manufacturing business in 1971 in Manila, Tokyo. In 1989, the company established itself as a manufacturing and trading concern and later on began venturing into product sourced distribution of construction related products like bathroom countertops, made of solid surface, composite metal plating products and cultivars. By 2008, it formed Oasis Countertops and Plating Co. Ltd., responsible for fabrication and production of countertops, sinks, faucets, toilet bowls, basins, pillars and other types of metal fabrication.

Panlux

Pacific Timber Export Corporation (Timex) was established in 1983 with a market leader in the integrated wood processing industry in the country. It is also engaged in diversified business activities such as logging, industrial tree plantation, commercial and plywood plant operation, log multimeter dealership and the manufacture and export of wood products. Timex holds environmental Forest Management Agreements (sFMA) in the Philippine province of Davao, composed to logging within concessions of several thousand hectares of pristine tropical forest situated in the province of Davao and Bukidnon until December 31, 2032, all in accordance with rules and regulations set forth by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It has undertook all of the foundation of The Home Depot outlines from its local trading and forest partner since its inception.

PR Kitchens

PR Kitchens Inc. specializes in the fabrication, assembly and installation of modular kitchen cabinets, wardrobes, bathroom cabinets, home cabinets, vanities and many custom-made countertops. Its flexible modular cabinet system provides us to choose with various de-

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